

Greece Bailout

STEPHEN CASTLE

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BRUSSELS — After weeks of uncertainty that revived fears about the foundations of the euro, European leaders Thursday clinched a new rescue plan for Greece that could push the country into default on some of its debt for a short period but would give Europe's bailout fund sweeping new powers to shore up struggling economies. At a press conference late



German Chancellor Angela Merkel arrives for a meeting in Brussels, on July 21, 2011. (The New York Times)

Thursday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel confirmed the 109-billion-euro aid package for Greece. European officials also said that financial institutions that own Greek bonds would contribute 50 billion euros through 2014 through a combination of debt extensions and the purchasing of discounted Greek bonds on the secondary market. The outlines of the plan worked out by the 17 euro zone heads of government seemed particularly bold, dealing with the economic problems of bailed-out Ireland and Portugal as well as Greece, and calling for nothing short of a "European Marshall Plan" to get Greece itself on a road to recovery.

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Goodwill Hunting



Obama, House Republicans look to strike final debt deal

President Barack Obama sits with House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, left, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev. in the White House in Washington. In secretive endgame negotiations, President Obama and House Republican leaders held a late session Thursday for an elusive "grand bargain" deal to cut deficits by \$4 trillion or more and prevent a threatened Aug. 2 government default, officials said.

WASHINGTON (AP) — In secretive endgame negotiations, President Barack Obama and House Republican leaders reached anew on Thursday for an elusive "grand bargain" deal to cut deficits by \$4 trillion or more and prevent a threatened Aug. 2 government default, officials said. House Speaker John Boehner declared that his rank and file generally stood ready to compromise in order to reach an agreement as a way of "getting our economy going again and growing jobs." Obama, in a newspaper opinion piece, said the talks provided an "opportunity to do something big and meaningful."

Still, 12 days before the default deadline, officials stressed that no compromise appeared imminent. And new hope of one ran instantly into old resistance: from Republicans opposed to higher taxes and Demo-

crats loath to cut Medicare and other benefit programs. In a measure of concern among Democrats, party leaders spent nearly two hours meeting with Obama at the White House late Thursday. While talks on a major, long-term agreement continued, a fresh, shorter-term backup plan appeared to be gaining momentum. Under discussion among some House Republicans, that proposal would cut spending by \$1 trillion or slightly more immediately and raise the debt limit by a similar amount — enough to postpone a final reckoning until early in 2012. Both sides maneuvered for political advantage and for leverage in negotiations about which little was publicly known. "At the end of the day, we have a responsibility to act," said Boehner of GOP lawmakers. Across the Capitol, however, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid blamed some

of the same Republicans — "tea party extremists," he called them — of blocking a deal. The sometimes-conflicting information underscored the frenzied final days before a threatened default, when the Treasury would no longer be able to pay all its bills in full and the economy could go into a tailspin as interest rates spiked. Some Democrats confided they were worried Obama would sign off on an agreement that cuts benefit programs without raising tax revenue, and they peppered Budget Director Jack Lew — in a closed-door meeting in the Senate — with questions about the high-level negotiations. In an opinion piece in USA Today posted Thursday evening, Obama restated his call for achieving deficit reduction through "historic" amounts of spending cuts but also through "fundamental tax reform." It was a stance

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

Reid pointedly emphasized Thursday. "My caucus agrees with that — and hope the president sticks with that, and I'm confident he will," the Nevada Democrat said.

One official said the White House had notified Democratic congressional leaders Wednesday night that Obama and the House leaders appeared to be were closing in on a deal said to include \$3 trillion in spending cuts but only a promise of higher revenues to be realized through a comprehensive overhaul of the tax code.

Boehner walked a difficult line of his own, not wanting to anger conservatives who hoped — despite every appearance to the contrary — that they could push far deeper cuts through the Senate in the next few days.

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Euro zone leaders clinch rescue plan for Greece



From left: French President Nicolas Sarkozy, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on their way to a special European Union summit in Brussels, on July 21, 2011. On Thursday night, European leaders agreed to reduce Greece's debt burden with a 109 billion euro rescue package in an effort to preserve the euro and stem a broader financial panic.

(Steffen Kugler, The New York Times)

Continued from Front

The underlying economies of those countries – and others – remain remarkably frail, however.

On the central issue of extending debt, rating agencies had already issued strong warnings that such steps might constitute a limited form of default because creditors would not be repaid in full on the original terms. The agreement came after days of conflict among Europe's leaders over how to keep the debt crisis from engulfing the much-larger economies of Italy and Spain. Any contagion would not only pose a potent threat to the euro –

the most important symbol of the European integration – but could destabilize the entire global financial system. The plan calls for a “comprehensive strategy for growth and investment in Greece,” including the release of European Union development funds to finance infrastructure projects. More significant, the euro zone leaders gave wide-ranging new powers to the bailout fund, the European Financial Stability Facility, by allowing it to buy government bonds on the secondary market and to help recapitalize banks where necessary.

That would effectively turn it into a prototype European version of the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund. The bailout fund would even be able to help shore up countries that had not requested a rescue. Germany rejected such ideas only months ago.

Strengthening the bailout fund signals a new willingness to come to terms with the scale of the euro zone's debt crisis by taking a big step toward common economic structures.

The challenges for Greece and the other bailed-out countries remain enormous, however, and some fear a default may still happen, even though markets reacted positively Thursday. Diplomats said that going forward with the proposals would require a change in

the fund's rules, which in turn would require approval by national parliaments. On the eve of the summit meeting, a statement from the French president, Nicolas Sarkozy, and Merkel said they had “listened” to the views of the president of the European Central Bank, Jean-Claude Trichet, who flew in from Frankfurt unexpectedly to join them in Berlin. Though the statement from Sarkozy and Merkel did not say whether they had settled the issue of allowing Greece to write down some of its debt – something Trichet has argued against publicly and adamantly – suggestions before the summit meeting in Brussels were that the ECB had softened its stance.

“The demand to prevent a selective default has been removed,” the Dutch finance minister, Jan Kees de Jager, told Parliament

in The Hague, Reuters reported. That also appeared to be the sense of a draft meeting statement that circulated before the summit meeting ended.

“The financial sector has indicated its willingness to support Greece on a voluntary basis through a menu of options (bond exchange, rollover and buyback) at lending conditions comparable to public support with credit enhancement,” the draft document said.

Though no figures were specified in the draft agreement, the loss for private investors would be around 20 percent, according to a German official not authorized to speak publicly.

“Selective default” is used by rating agencies to describe when terms of a bond such as the repayment deadline or interest rate have been altered. □

Obama, House Republicans look to strike final debt deal

Continued from Front

“There is no deal. No deal publicly, no deal privately, there is absolutely no deal,” he told conservative talk show radio host Rush Limbaugh. “We’re not close to a deal,” said Jay Carney, the White House press secretary.

Another Democratic official said that in fact progress had been made, but Boehner's office declined to say as much.

“While we are keeping the

lines of communication open, there is no ‘deal’ and no progress to report,” said spokesman Michael Steel.

The government's debt stands at a record \$14.3 trillion and has been growing by more than \$1 trillion a year.

Obama's request for an increase prompted Boehner to say months ago that any rise must be accompanied by spending cuts of at least the same amount.

Publicly, some Republicans insisted they would not entertain any fallback measure as long as a separate House-passed bill was pending in the Senate. □

Excessive US heat moving to East coast

DAN SEWELL

Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — Hot weather that has plagued the central U.S. for days spread eastward Thursday, blanketing several more states under a sizzling sun that made people sick, shut down summer schools and spurred cities to offer cooling centers and free swimming.

Government forecasters issued excessive heat warnings for a huge section of the country, from Kansas to Massachusetts, while some southern states were under heat advisories. Scattered deaths have been blamed on the heat nationwide.

The Ohio Health Department said emergency room visits in the Midwestern state have been three or four times higher than usual this week, mainly due to heat exhaustion and heat stroke cases.

The temperature could soar to 101 Fahrenheit (38 Celsius) in Toledo, Ohio — 2 degrees above a record set in 1930. Combined with the humidity, it could feel



Rashawn West, 17, shakes water off his head while carrying his 1-year-old son Al-Shameir West while trying to beat the heat at Pennington Court apartments, Thursday, July 21, 2011, in Newark, N.J. Residents of the 223-unit public housing complex gathered at the court yard near a water sprinkler as temperature neared the 100-degree mark.

(AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

as hot as 115 F (46 C) across Ohio.

"It feels very sultry, very uncomfortable, and it's just very dangerous," said Jim Lott, lead forecaster for the National Weather Service office in Wilmington, Ohio. Thousands of homes and businesses in southern

Michigan lost power Thursday morning as people cranked up air conditioner use. Ferndale Recreation Director Julie Hall said a cooling center in suburban Detroit took in numerous senior citizens after their nearby apartment lost electricity.

Baltimore, Annapolis and several other Maryland cities opened public cooling centers for folks to find relief. Allentown, Pennsylvania, waived fees at all public pools.

The temperature approached triple digits in Philadelphia and much of central and western New York. Philadelphia school officials sent students home early Thursday and canceled summer school for Friday. □

Lawmakers prepare to overhaul U.S. postal service

SEAN COLLINS WALSH

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WASHINGTON — Until the deficit negotiations took center stage this summer, several members of Congress had another idea about what they wanted to focus on: an overhaul of the Postal Service, which is on the brink of insolvency. "If it wasn't for the federal debt ceiling and the budget issues, this would be a major, major issue," said Rep. Stephen F. Lynch, D-Mass., who has proposed a bill that would overhaul the Postal Service's pension obligations.

The Postal Service has been imploring Congress to act for years. If the status quo continues, Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe said Wednesday, mail delivery could be cut back to three days a week within 20 years. The current Congress could be the one to take action.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle agree that the Postal Service needs re-vamping. Five overhaul bills have been introduced — two by Republicans and three by Democrats — with proposals addressing issues like the actuarial assumptions for employees' retirement benefits and the viability of Saturday deliveries. "The situation at the Postal Service is dire," said Sen. Thomas R. Carper, D-Del., who has introduced one of the bills. "The option of doing nothing is not an option." The most likely path to passing major legislation appears to be through the Senate, where Carper, who is chairman of the committee responsible for the Post Office, and Sen. Susan Collins, a Maine Republican who has introduced a different bill, are working together to draft a compromise that could pass with bipartisan support. □

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With final shuttle voyage, NASA ends era in space



The space shuttle Atlantis lands at the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Fla. on July 21, 2011. The shuttle rolled to a stop just before 6 a.m., closing an era of the space program.

(Philip Scott Andrews/The New York Times)

KENNETH CHANG

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The last space shuttle flight rolled to a stop just before 6 a.m. Thursday, closing an era of the nation's space program. "Mission complete, Houston," said Capt. Christopher J. Ferguson of the Navy, commander of the shuttle Atlantis for the last flight. "After serving the world for over 30 years, the space shuttle has earned its place in history, and it's come to a final stop." It was the 19th night land-

ing at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida to end the 135th space shuttle mission. For Atlantis, the final tally of its 26-year career: 33 missions, accumulating just short of 126 million miles during 307 days in space. A permanent marker will be placed on the runway to indicate the final resting spot of the space shuttle program. The last day in space went smoothly. Late Wednesday night, the crew awoke to the Kate Smith version of "God Bless

America." With no weather or technical concerns, the crew closed the payload doors at 2:09 a.m. on Thursday. At 4:13 a.m., Barry E. Wilmore, an astronaut at mission control in Houston, told the Atlantis crew, "Everything is looking fantastic, there you are go for the de-orbit burn, and you can maneuver on time." "That's great, Butch," replied Ferguson. "Go on the de-orbit maneuver, on time." Thirty-six minutes later, as it was passing over Malaysia,

Atlantis fired its maneuvering engines for just over 3 minutes, slowing it down by 225 miles per hour and beginning the fall back into Earth's atmosphere.

In the clear, windless pre-dawn, sonic booms announced the shuttle's impending arrival. During the 13-day mission, Atlantis ferried 8,000 pounds of supplies and spare parts to the International Space Sta-

tion.

With the retirement of the shuttles, the space station will now rely on Russian, European and Japanese rockets to bring up supplies. NASA is also counting on two commercial companies, Space Exploration Technologies Corp. of Hawthorne, Calif., and Orbital Sciences Corp. of Dulles, Va., to begin cargo flights next year. □

Huntsman's manager quits campaign post

M. D. SHEAR

JEFF ZELENY

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WASHINGTON — The manager for Jon M. Huntsman Jr.'s sleepy presidential campaign stepped down Thursday as his remaining operatives vowed to quickly reinvigorate his bid for the Republican nomination. The manager, Susie Wiles, left barely a month after Huntsman formally kicked off his campaign. A veteran of Florida politics, Wiles told the campaign she was ready to leave after helping to get things up and running.

But aides seized upon the departure to signal a shift for the candidacy of Huntsman, a former Utah governor who returned last spring from a two-year tour as President Barack Obama's ambassador to China to challenge his former boss. Wiles will be succeeded as manager by Matt David, the campaign's communication's director and a veteran of aggressive media strategies for candidates including Arnold Schwarzenegger, the former governor of California President George W. Bush; and Sen. John McCain of Arizona. "In the coming weeks, our campaign needs to be and will be more aggressive from a message and a tactical standpoint," said Tim Miller, the campaign spokesman. He said the campaign would do more to "differentiate ourselves from the president and from our Republican rivals." Since making his campaign official June 21 in Jersey City, in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty, Huntsman has vowed to run a civil campaign. But he has also been less visible than most other Republican candidates. He has held no public events for days at a time. When he has campaigned, it sometimes amounted to making just one appearance a day. Campaign aides explained that Huntsman has been busy raising money. With David at the helm, the campaign is expected to begin drawing distinctions with Republican rivals, particularly Mitt Romney and his record as governor of Massachusetts. "It's a seamless transition to somebody who has been with this campaign from Day 1 that the governor and all of us have tremendous faith in," said John Weaver, the chief political strategist for the campaign. "There's not a matter of regrouping. There's no outsider coming in — there's none of that." □

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Farm felons pick off California almonds, grapes, even bees

JESSE MCKINLEY

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BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — Sgt.

Walt Reed said he could tell right away that the grapes were stolen. They looked like an ordinary bunch. Except, he said, for the way they were dressed.

"Usually grapes are put into plastic bags," said Reed, a 28-year veteran of the Kern County Sheriff's Office. "But these grapes were just thrown in a Styrofoam box." Reed — who eventually arrested a suspect after staking out a Kern County vineyard — is just one of dozens of deputies on the front lines of agricultural crime in California, home to the nation's most productive farms and the people who prey on them.

While thievery has long been a fact of life in the country, such crimes are on the rise and fighting them has become harder in many parts of California as many grants for rural law enforcement have withered on the vine.

While other states have their own agricultural intrigue — cattle rustlers in Texas, tomato takers in Florida — few areas can claim a wider variety of farm felons than California, where ambushes on everything from almonds to beehives have been reported in recent years. Then there is the hardware: Diesel fuel, tools and truck batteries regularly disappear in the Central Valley, the state's agricultural powerhouse, where high unemployment, foreclosures and methamphetamine abuse have made criminals more desperate, officials say.

"All of our ag crimes are up," said Reed, who oversees a unit of two full-time detectives — down from three a year ago — all patrolling a county about eight times the size of Rhode Island.

A wet winter and warm summer, after all, have meant healthy crops, he said, and a healthy market means happy thieves.

"Everything this year is doing well," Reed said. "And if it's doing well here, there's somebody looking to steal it."



Fighting agricultural crimes has become harder in many parts of California as many grants for rural law enforcement have withered on the vine.

(AP Photo/Joe Raymond)

Counties up and down the state also are dealing with a surge in copper theft — a perennial problem made all the worse of late by the soaring price for the metal. Such robberies are remarkably simple.

Bandits simply snip copper wires running between outdoor wells and their power boxes.

"To repair them is anywhere from \$2,000 to \$5,000 a whack," said Greg Wegis, a Kern County farmer. "We repaired one, and it immediately got ripped off again."

And copper is not the only tempting metal.

"Two hundred pounds of iron might bring them 75, 100 bucks," Reed said. "That's money they can use to put gas in their trucks. They can get some food."

Nor are the crimes limited to poorer areas; in Napa County, where fans of the good life flock for the wine and warm weather, the police set up a tip line in

June to combat a raft of thefts, including solar panels at some vineyards.

In other areas, deputies say they have witnessed a kind of Robin Hood effect, where some small, struggling farmers filch materials from their better stocked competitors.

"It's typical during certain times of the year: you'll see a surge in theft from bigger farms," said Deputy Sheriff John H. McCarthy, a rural crime investigator for Santa Barbara County. "Chemicals, fuel and the type of things you need to put in a new crop."

Not even insects are immune.

In Madera County, about 130 miles east of San Francisco, officials saw a rash of bee burglaries this year, as a shortage of able-bodied pollinators drove up the price.

"They'd just go in there and they smoke the bees, sedate them and take them," Sheriff John Anderson said.

"And they wear protective gear just like the pros."

Brian Long, a Colorado-based beekeeper, was one of those hit, losing more than 400 hives — valued at about \$100,000 — in California in January. And while Long recovered the hives, and the bees therein, he said the thieves were getting bolder.

"This is way more than we've ever had to deal with," he said.

Like many lawmen in vast agricultural areas, Anderson said a major challenge was the remoteness of farms and the lack of witnesses.

"It's not like breaking into the neighbor's house and the dog barking," he said. "These things are just sitting out here in the middle of nowhere." □

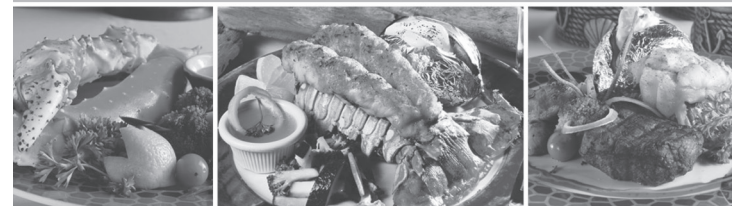
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As grand central changes, longtime tenants are left behind

CHRISTINE HAUGHNEY

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NEW YORK — In the 34 years Alfred Catalanotto's family has operated food shops in Grand Central Terminal, he has watched the building change, much of it for the better.

But that evolution has come about in part by displacing longtime tenants like Catalanotto to make way for a newer generation of shops and restaurants.

His Central Market Chill, which sold snacks, went when his lease expired in 2009, and now his Central Market Grill is being replaced by a takeout version of the Napa Valley steakhouse Tri Tip Grill.

Catalanotto has found a way to stay. He is opening a hot-dog stand called Frankies Dogs to Go on the lower level in August. He has also opened food shops in Pennsylvania Station and the Whitehall Ferry Terminal in Lower Manhattan.

Still, he wishes his son, who recently joined the business, could count on staying at Grand Central for another generation.

"I didn't care how much you raised my rent to," he said while strolling through the terminal and nodding at friends. "I was willing to pay whatever to be in

and street.

This month, Grand Central's landlord, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, notified 300 applicants that most of them



Travelers at Grand Central Station in New York. The focus by the terminal's landlord on a different mix of shops and restaurants has prevented some old tenants from renewing their leases.

(Angel Franco/The New York Times)

here."

More than a decade after the restoration of its public areas, including its shops and restaurants, Grand Central has realized its goal of becoming a retail destination, appealing to a wider audience than the train and subway riders rushing between platform

had been rejected for the 74 available slots at its December holiday fair. By late fall, the terminal expects to have a dozen new shops and restaurants, including a new Brooklyn beer stand called Beer Table, bread and vegetable stands run by Eli's, and an outpost of the popular downtown

store Kidding Around Toys. When Apple proposed opening a store on the balcony overlooking the main hall, it submitted its bid in linen-lined boxes, as if it were a wedding present to transit officials, a source familiar with the application process said.

The board is expected to approve the deal as early as next week, at its monthly board meeting.

But changes popular with shoppers and the transportation authority, which handles the real estate for the station's operator, Metro-North Railroad, have angered some of the shop owners who helped drive the transformation.

While shop owners appreciate the traffic and improved surroundings of the new Grand Central, they say the authority can be a very demanding landlord that displays little loyalty once leases expire.

The transportation authority insists on approving the materials, design plans and even paint colors that shop owners use. Internal docu-

ments show that the authority even encourages tenants to use on its signs "dark, jewel-toned colors and suggests specific paint shades like Benjamin Moore's Georgian Brick. Some tenants say the authority's 5-year-old requirement that all shop owners whose leases are expiring apply like anyone else to keep their space means that they are not rewarded purely for their longevity. Some shop owners could not afford to fight to keep their spaces, and the departures began. As others watched places like Little Pie Company be replaced by operations with far deeper pockets, like Magnolia Bakery, they started to worry.

"Twelve years ago, I didn't want to come there; there was nothing there," said Sushil Malhotra, a successful restaurant entrepreneur whom Grand Central had courted to open Cafe Spice and Feng Shui and who will face the public renewal process when his leases expire in 2015. □

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Murdoch contradicted by ex-legal manager



News Corporation head Rupert Murdoch exits his Fifth Avenue residence, Thursday, July 21, 2011, in New York. As the scandal runs its course in the U.K., Murdoch's News Corp. must confront at least two U.S.-based shareholder lawsuits, a possible Standard & Poor's credit downgrade, and the beginnings of a federal investigation.

(AP Photo/Louis Lanzano)

LONDON (AP) — James Murdoch's former legal adviser and a former editor contested the testimony he gave to British lawmakers, saying Thursday he was told years ago about an email that suggested the rot at his Sunday tabloid was far more widespread than previously claimed. Their statement could deal a blow to the credibility of Rupert Murdoch's son as the family struggles to limit the damage from a phone-hacking scandal that has already cost the media empire one of its British tabloids, two top executives and a billion-dollar bid for control of a satellite broadcaster. Meanwhile Scotland Yard, which is still reeling from allegations that it turned a blind eye to the scandal, was asked to investigate another explosive claim: That journalists bribed officers to locate people by tracking their cell phone signals. The practice is known as

"pinging" because of the way cell phone signals bounce off relay towers as they try to find reception. Jenny Jones, a member of the board that oversees the Metropolitan Police Authority, called for the inquiry into the alleged payoffs by journalists at Murdoch's now-defunct News of the World. James Murdoch, in a grilling by lawmakers on Tuesday, batted away claims that he knew the full extent of the illegal espionage at the News of the World when he approved a massive payout in 2008 to soccer players' association chief Gordon Taylor, one of the phone hacking victims. Murdoch's News International had long maintained that the eavesdropping was limited to a single rogue reporter, Clive Goodman, and the private investigator he was working with to break into voice mails of members of the royal household.

But an email uncovered during legal proceedings seemed to cast doubt on that claim. It contained a transcript of an illegally obtained conversation, drawn up by a junior reporter and marked "for Neville" — an apparent reference to the News of

the World's chief reporter, Neville Thurlbeck. Because it seemed to implicate others in the hacking, the email had the potential to blow a hole through News International's fiercely held contention that one reporter alone had engaged in hacking. If

Murdoch knew about the email — and was aware of its implication — it would lend weight to the suggestion that he'd approved the payoff in an effort to bury the scandal.

Continued on Page 8

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Olejniczak started his musical career at the age of 6. He then followed his studies in Warsaw at the age of 19. Afterwards Olejniczak brought his music around the world by performing concerts which later brought him much success.

He then won the contest of the "Gran Orkestra Sinfonica" from Frankfurt where he encountered himself with Violin fanatic musicians from all over the world. This experience was an amazing experience for him as he was able to compete against great talented musicians who also performed the same penetrating music which touch the soul of any human being in the most breathe taking and marvelous ways.

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Murdoch

Continued from Page 7

Murdoch told lawmakers he was not aware of the email at the time, but in a statement late Thursday, former News International legal manager Tom Crone and former News of the World editor Colin Myler contradicted him.

"We would like to point out that James Murdoch's recollection of what he was told when agreeing to settle the Gordon Taylor litigation was mistaken," they said. "In fact, we did inform him of the 'for Neville' email which had been produced to us by Gordon Taylor's lawyers."

News International quickly fired back a denial, saying James Murdoch stood by his statement to lawmakers.

Almost at the same time, it announced it had fired yet another journalist in connection with the scandal



News Corp. head Rupert Murdoch arrives at his Fifth Avenue residence with his wife Wendi, Wednesday, July 20, 2011, in New York. Emerging relatively unscathed from a British parliamentary hearing on the phone hacking scandal, Rupert Murdoch returned to the United States on Wednesday, where his company faces a host of financial and legal challenges.

(AP Photo/Louis Lanzano)

— identified in the British media as a former News of the World editor who

now works at its sister newspaper, The Sun. The request for a pinging inquiry, meanwhile, stems from an allegation made by the late Sean Hoare, a former News of the World reporter who spoke to the New York Times about skullduggery at the tabloid. Hoare — who was fired in 2005 — said officers were paid nearly \$500 (300 pounds) per trace. The paper cited a second unnamed former News of the World journalist as corroborating Hoare's claim. Hoare was found dead on Monday at his home near London; police say the death is not suspicious. Pinging joins a host of alleged media misdeeds being put under the microscope as police, politicians, and the public weigh allegations that journalists at Rupert Murdoch's News of the World engaged in years of lawless behavior to get scoops. Murdoch's News Corp. is trying to keep the damage from spreading to its more lucrative U.S. holdings, including the Fox network, 20th Century Fox and the Wall Street Journal. □

Former Canadian commander enters guilty plea

MONTREAL (AP) — The former chief of Canadian forces in Afghanistan who was dismissed from his post after being accused of having an alleged sexual affair with a subordinate was fined more than \$7,400 after pleading guilty to two charges Thursday.

Retired Brig.-Gen. Daniel Menard, 45, entered the pleas while facing court martial in Montreal. Menard was once a rising star in the army and was the No. 1 military man in Afghanistan before his career unraveled.

The married father of two was charged with two counts of conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline under the National Defense Act. One charge related to an alleged sexual affair with a corporal under his command; the second charge was for allegedly trying to impede a military police investigation into the affair.

Military regulations bar soldiers, even married couples, from having intimate relations while on deployment.

The court also took the strictly symbolic measure of ordering his rank reduced to colonel.

However, that will have no practical effect because Menard is already retired from the military and will retain his previous rank and pension benefits.

Along with reducing his rank, the military court also hit Menard with a \$7,406 fine. Other possible punishments he

could have faced included a prison sentence of up to two years and/or dismissal with disgrace, which would make re-enlisting in the Canadian forces or working for the federal government nearly impossible.

After apologizing in court Thursday to his wife and children for the sexual liaison that got him sent home from Afghanistan in disgrace, Menard said the media scrutiny of his case has been punishment enough for his family.

Menard's downward spiral began the moment his affair was revealed by a prominent U.S. military-affairs blogger. Soon thereafter, he was back home in Canada and feeling like persona non grata. "It was clear I was no longer in the club of generals," Menard said. "I felt completely ostracized ... I concluded I didn't have a place anymore."

Menard met Master Cpl. Bikanja Langlois in Canada in 2008, before they were deployed together to Afghanistan. Court documents suggest the two had a sexual affair between Nov. 15, 2009, and April 27, 2010, while Menard — a 26-year army veteran and married father of two — was commanding Canada's task force in Afghanistan.

Authorities say Menard repeatedly tried to persuade Langlois to delete incriminating e-mails once the alleged affair became known in May 2010. Langlois was convicted in a summary trial last Sept. 28 of one count of conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline. She was reprimanded and fined \$738. □

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Libya rebels:

Brega oil installations boobytrapped

ALAN CLENDENNING,
AP Business Writer

MADRID (AP) — Libyan ruler Moammar Gadhafi's troops have boobytrapped petroleum installations in the strategic oil port of Brega so they can be blown up if his regime loses the town, a top rebel official said Thursday.

The Libyan leader also delivered yet another defiant speech in which he didn't foresee any talks with rebels between now and the end of time.

"I will not speak to them, there will be no words between us until the Day of Judgement," Gadhafi said in a speech addressing crowds in his hometown of Sirte in the center of the country.

"It is the voice of the Libyan people, free and defiant, that will respond to them." The address is the latest in a series of speeches accompanied by large rallies in different cities across the country over the past week to bolster support for the regime in the face of international backing for the rebels.

Mahmoud Jibril, the rebels' diplomatic chief, said Gadhafi's forces have boobytrapped oil fields. He did not state which fields.

Although Brega is a key oil processing and shipment hub, the fields that feed it lie far to the south in the Libyan desert. It does, however, contain massive containers filled with oil and natural gas read to be offloaded onto ships.

"Unfortunately, Brega is a big minefield right now," Jibril told reporters after meeting with Spanish Foreign Minister Trinidad Jimenez. "We discovered that they planted mines all over the place.

Even some oil establishments, some oil fields, have been full of bombs, explosives."

"I will not speak to them, there will be no words between us until the Day of Judgement," Gadhafi said

Rebels and pro-Gadhafi forces have been locked in a stalemate, despite a NATO air campaign against Gadhafi's forces. Rebels hold most of eastern Libya, but their push to seize Brega since last week unraveled Tuesday when 27 rebels were killed in shelling by Gadhafi's troops.

With the NATO-led air campaign entering its fifth month, Britain's military reported its first death related to the campaign after an airman died in a traffic accident in southern Italy. The Ministry of Defense said Thursday that an airman from the Royal Air Force's No. 2 Squadron died in the Abruzzo region when his vehicle went off the road. Rebel forces have since pulled back from the city amid hopes that Gadhafi's forces will surrender, and Jibril said rebel fighters "are

circulating Brega from all fronts right now."

Rebel commanders have said mine fields laid by Gadhafi's troops have hampered their advance. In Libya, local medic Mohammed Idris said a mine killed one rebel and injured four on Thursday.

The Libyan government had no immediate com-

ment on the rebel accusations, but on Monday, spokesman Moussa Ibrahim sounded a defiant note about the oil city.

"We will turn Brega into hell, we will not give Brega up even if it causes the death

of thousands of rebels and the destruction of the city," Ibrahim said.

Jibril said the boobytrapping of oil facilities and fields is a signal that Gadhafi's regime fears it can't hold Brega much longer "and the only course they have embarked on is to destroy everything."

Jibril also said that Libya's

Spain's government to deduct those costs from the frozen assets.

Last week's recognition of the council as Libya's legitimate government will potentially free up tens of billions of dollars in cash from frozen Libyan assets that the rebels desperately need, but Jimenez suggested that assets in Spain won't



In this photo taken on a government-organized tour, a journalist inspects a building that Libyan officials say was destroyed in an airstrike, near the town of Zlitan, roughly 160 kilometers (99 miles) east of Tripoli, Libya, Thursday, July 21, 2011. Libyan ruler Moammar Gadhafi's troops have boobytrapped petroleum installations in the strategic oil port of Brega so they can be blown up if his regime loses the town, a top rebel official said Thursday.

(AP Photo/Tara Todras-Whitehill)

ment on the rebel accusations, but on Monday, spokesman Moussa Ibrahim sounded a defiant note about the oil city.

"We will turn Brega into hell, we will not give Brega up even if it causes the death

National Transitional Council wants foreign firms like Spanish energy company Repsol SA, which abandoned the country when fighting broke out, to return and rebuild their damaged installations — and to allow

be immediately released. Instead, she said Spanish officials and Libyan opposition officials will meet soon to determine whether the Spain assets could be used as collateral to provide the rebels with credit. □

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Analysts:

Somali war helped turn drought to famine

ABDI GULED

K. HOURELD

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)

— Somali soldiers beat back desperate families with gun butts as they fought for food supplies in front of a weeping diplomat, a day after the U.N. declared parts of the country were suffering from the worst famine in a generation. "I will knock on every door I can to help you," the African Union envoy to Somalia, Jerry Rawlings, told the gathered families in the capital of Mogadishu on Thursday. Somalia's 20-year-old civil war is partly to blame for turning the drought in the Horn of Africa into a famine. Analysts warned that aid agencies could be airlifting emergency supplies to the failed state 20 years from now unless the U.N.-backed government improves.

"Corruption is a major part of the problem in Somalia,"



A Somali woman from southern Somalia holds her malnourished child in their makeshift shelter in Mogadishu, Somalia, Thursday, July 21, 2011. Thousands of people have arrived in Mogadishu over the past two weeks seeking assistance and the number is increasing by the day, due to lack of water and food.

(AP Photo/Mohamed Sheikh Nor)

said Rashid Abdi, a Somalia analyst at the International Crisis Group. "This drought did not come out of nowhere, but the (Somali) government did not do anything to prepare for it. Instead they spent all their time fighting each other." The U.N. has appealed

for \$300 million to over the next two months and aid agencies warn it will take at least \$1 billion to provide emergency food, medicine and shelter for 11 million people in East Africa until the end of the year. Pictures of skeletal children and grief-stricken

mothers stare out from Western newspapers in mute appeal.

The suffering is real. The U.N. believes tens of thousands have already died in the inaccessible interior, held by al-Qaida linked Islamist rebels who denied many aid agencies access for two years. The thorny scrub around the overflowing refugee camps in Kenya is littered with tiny corpses abandoned by mothers to weak to even dig their children a grave. But Somalis will continue to suffer unless the international backers who support the Somali government also demand that it does a better job, said Abdirazak Fartaag, who headed the government's finance management unit until he fled the country after writing a report detailing tens of millions of dollars in missing donations from Arab nations. "The Somalis are very grateful for what the international

community is doing for them, but they need to be a bit more forceful in holding our politicians to account," Fartaag said. Currently, the government only holds half of the capital with the help of 9,000 African Union peacekeepers. The salaries of 10,000 Somali soldiers are paid by the U.S. and Italy, and the police are paid by the European Union.

The rest of south-central Somalia is held by insurgents who kidnap children to use as child soldiers and carry out stonings and amputations. Last year, the group claimed responsibility for their first international terror attack, killing 76 people in Uganda. Abdi said some Somali politicians continued to be corrupt because they gambled that the international community would not withdraw its support and allow the Islamists to take over the whole of southern Somalia. □

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Blunt anthem tells Syrian leader it's time to go

ANTHONY SHADID

© 2011 New York Times

HAMA, Syria — As anthems go, this one is fittingly blunt. "Come on, Bashar, leave," it declares to President Bashar Assad. And in the weeks since it was heard in protests in this city, the song has become a symbol of the power of the protesters' message, the confusion in their ranks and the violence of the government in stopping their dissent.

Although no one in Hama seems to agree on who wrote the song, there is near consensus on one point: A young cement layer who sang it in protests was dragged from the Orontes River this month with his throat cut and, according to residents, his vocal cords ripped out. Since his death, boys as young as 6 have offered their rendition in his place. Rippling through the virtual communities that the Internet and revolt have inspired, the song has spread to other cities in Syria, where protesters chant it as their own. "We've all memorized it," said Ahmed, a 40-year-old trader in Hama who regularly attends protests. "What else can you do if you keep repeating it at demonstrations day after day?"

Tunisia can claim the slogan of the Arab revolts: "The people want to topple the regime." Egyptians made famous street poetry that reflected their incomparable wit. "Come on, Bashar, Leave" is Syria's contribution to the pop culture of sedition, the raw street humor that mingles with the furor of revolt and the ferocity of crackdown. When the government decided them as infiltrators, protesters appropriated the term with pride. After Assad warned of germs in the body politic, echoing Moammar Gadhafi's dismissal of Libya's rebels as rats, protesters came up with a new slogan: "Syrian germs salute Libyan rats." Protesters in Hama fashioned a toy tank from trash containers in the streets. On the birth date of Assad's

father, Hafez, who ruled for 30 years, youths in Homs set their chants to the tune of "Happy Birthday."

"Come on, Bashar, Leave" is more festive than funny, with an infectious refrain, chanted with the intoxica-

sence of decades of dictatorship: that the simple act of speaking is subversive.

"They really cut out his vocal cords!" exclaimed a 30-year-old pharmacist in Hama, who gave his name as Wael. "Is there a greater

to be wrong," said an engineer who gave his name as Adnan.

Many here see the government's hand in everything. Lists of informers have circulated, but some believe security forces compiled

a 23-year-old activist who gave his name as Obada. Obada and others insisted that the song was actually written by a 23-year-old part-time electrician and student named Abdel-Rahman, also known as Rahmani. Sitting in a basement room, Rahmani celebrated what he called "days of creativity."

As the protests in Hama grew bolder and bigger last month, he said crowds grew bored with the old chants — "Peaceful, peaceful, Christians and Muslims," "There is no fear after today" and "God, Syria, freedom, and nothing else." Speeches were not much better. Activists soon managed to bring sound equipment, powered by generators tucked in the trunk of a car, he said, and he wrote his first song, "Syria Wants Freedom."

"Come on, Bashar, Leave" followed, though he and his brother Mohammed argued for a week over whether he should keep a marginally derogatory line, "Hey, Bashar, to hell with you." It stayed, and now draws the biggest applause, cheers and laughter. "What I say, everyone feels in their hearts, but can't find words to express," he said, dragging on a cigarette. "We were brought up afraid to even talk about politics." □



Abdel-Rahman, a part-time electrician and student who writes anti-regime songs, in Hama, Syria, on July 16, 2011. Abdel-Rahman, known as Rahmani in the protest movement, claims credit for writing the song "Come on, Bashar, leave," which has become an anthem for those opposed to the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

(Moises Saman/The New York Times)

tion of doing something forbidden for so long:

^ ``Hey, Bashar, hey, liar. Damn you and your speech, freedom is right at the door. So come on, Bashar, leave."

@ "It's started to spread all over the country," said a former Republican Guard officer who has joined the protests in Homs, an hour or so from Hama. "It keeps getting more popular."

The man pulled from the river was named Ibrahim Qashoush, and he was from the neighborhood of Hadir. He was relatively unknown before July 4, when his body was found, then buried in the city's Safa cemetery, near the highway.

Footage on YouTube, impossible to verify, shows a man purported to be Qashoush with his head lolling from a deep gash in his throat. Residents say security forces shot him, too. But people in Hama dwelled on the detail that stands as a metaphor for the es-

symbol of the power of the word?"

In a rebellion whose leaders remain largely nameless and faceless, Qashoush has become somewhat celebrated in death. "The nightingale of the revolution," one activist called him.

But the revolt remains largely atomized, with protesters in cities connected first and foremost by the Internet, and rumors have proliferated about Qashoush himself. Even in Hama, where protest leaders in one neighborhood often do not know their colleagues in another, some residents have suggested that Qashoush was not the real singer, that two men had the same name, that he was really a government informer killed by residents, that he is still alive.

One resident insisted the man killed was a second-rate wedding singer.

"Every day in the street, just while you're sitting somewhere, you can hear five or six rumors, and they turn out

them, hoping to discredit protesters or smear the reputations of businessmen helping them. When residents hanged an informer last month, some people in Hama suggested that government agents did it to make them look bad.

"We've heard this," said

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late show: 12:15

FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS
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matinee: 11:30 **R**
late show: 11:30

MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS
daily: 12:15 - 3:00 **PG**
matinee: 12:15 - 3:00 **PG**
late show: 11:15

TRANSFORMER 3 DARK OF THE MOON
daily: 4:45 - 8:00 **PG-13**
matinee: 11:15 **SP PG-13**
late show: 11:15

CARS 2
daily: 12:00 - 2:30 **SP PG**
matinee: 12:00 - 2:30 **SP PG**
late show: 11:15

KUNG FU PANDA 2
daily: 12:00 - 2:30 **SP PG**
matinee: 12:00 - 2:30 **SP PG**
late show: 11:15

THE ZOOKEEPER
daily: 4:45 - 7:15 - 9:45
matinee: 12:00 - 2:15 **PG-13**
late show: 12:00

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS 2
daily: 4:30 - 7:00 - 9:30 **SP PG-13**
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Move over, tequila, it's mescal's turn to shine

RANDAL C. ARCHIBOLD

© 2011 New York Times

ZUMPAHUACAN, Mexico

Eyes pop open, mouths contort, a chorus of crisp

Garcia is one of several local producers fighting to share in the boom in Mexican spirits, with mescal, against all odds, taking a

good, too." It is a folk remedy for colds and indigestion. But it is probably best known for the worm in the bottle – a marketing gim-

mescal, tequila and other traditional drinks as their primary offerings – including pulque and sotol, also derived from agave – are springing up all over Mexico City.

Exports of mescal (up 54 percent last year) and tequila (up 12 percent) have surged, as the trendier precincts of New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and other cities find there is more to Mexican liquor than margaritas.

Catering to tourists' interest, Mexico City in December opened the Museum of Tequila and Mescal at a historic square downtown. And riding the wave of interest, the number of mescal brands has risen sharply in recent years, to 78 from 28 since 2007, according to Mexico's agriculture ministry.

Part of it is the never-ending cycle of what's old is hip again. But Mexicans, particularly younger ones, are also on a quest to rediscover and affirm their roots in reaction to the surge of

after sampling several varieties here. "We've seen a world of consumerism. Now we don't want everything the same."

Fernando Llanos, 34, an artist and one of many bar owners and restaurateurs in Mexico City who have organized tastings and pushed mescal to the top of their offerings, said, "It is a passion of mine."

"This is for my house," said Llanos, a partner in Lilit, a bar and restaurant in Mexico City, clutching a bottle of artisanal mescal here in Zumpahuacan. "But I will see if my sommelier is interested in trying it in the bar. If we don't support the people out in the country here, they are going to get involved in other things."

Cornelio Perez, founder of a group called Mescales Tradicionales, is the pied piper for artisanal mescal: He is even organizing a campaign to have mescal put on UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Humanity, as traditional Mexican food was last



Guests sample mescal during a tasting in a mezcaleria, a bar specializing in mescal, in Mexico City. Artisanal versions of mescal, the fiery Mexican liquor derived from agave and best known in the U.S. for the worm in the bottle, are attracting the notice of fashionable restaurateurs in Mexico City and beyond.

(Adriana Zehbrauskas/The New York Times)

"ahhs" rings through the room. The mescal, the Mexican firewater best known in the United States for the worm in the bottle, has incinerated the tongue, scorched the back of the throat and begun its lava flow to the stomach.

No shots here; the drink is sipped and savored, swirled about the mouth like the finest of wines, inducing a chaser of haughty adjectives.

"Citrusy."

"Honey-scented."

"Woody," come the assessments from the gathering. Far from a college dorm party, it is a group of mostly 20- and 30-something professionals discovering the finer points of the artisanal version of the drink at a recent tasting in this farming village two hours from Mexico City.

"This is clean liquid," Fructuoso Garcia, 84, one of a handful of producers in this region, stood and declared to the group. "We don't put anything in to beef up the flavor. This is nothing like you get from the factory."

star turn.

It is moving a bit out of the shadow of tequila, the far more popular and, let's face it, smoother spirit that has won fans (and hangovers) around the world.

Both are derived from agave, a kind of plant native to Mexico, and technically speaking, tequila is a type of mescal (though in Mexico they are regarded as very different drinks, much like champagne and wine).

While tequila is made from a specific variety of the plant's fruit and produced mainly in Jalisco State, mescal (or mezcal as it is spelled in Mexico) is made from a broader class and is often viewed as the earthier, country cousin, distilled in a centuries-old process distinct from tequila's and with an alcohol content generally in excess of 45 percent.

Different regions have their own versions of mescal, but share a common selling point with the popular saying: "Mescal for everything bad – and everything



Cornelio Perez, second from right, leads a tasting of mescal in a mezcaleria, a bar specializing in mescal, in Mexico City. Artisanal versions of mescal, the fiery Mexican liquor derived from agave and best known in the U.S. for the worm in the bottle, are attracting the notice of fashionable restaurateurs in Mexico City and beyond.

(Adriana Zehbrauskas/The New York Times)

mick for a few brands from Oaxaca State (a few use a scorpion instead.) And, worm or not, it tends to go down like a flick of lightning. Which may be the point. Bars and restaurants with

American products and stores inundating the country.

"It's part of our identity, and it's worth preserving," Andrea Bustillos, a 25-year-old art history student, said

fall.

He rails against the commercial variety, which may carry the official stamp of the national regulatory board but, in his view, lacks flavor and authenticity. □

LOCAL

Aruba TODAY

Holland's first crop of mussels arrive Saturday



PALM BEACH - The 'Zeeuwse' mussels, a seasonal delicacy that many people are anticipating every year, are coming to Papillon Restaurant. This Saturday, the first traditional black, shiny pots will be served, brimming with mussels in their shell. Papillon is the first restaurant on Aruba to serve mussels this year; the restaurant expects many mussel lovers to flock to The Village this weekend to sample the new crop.

The mussel season has started a bit later than normal because of the dry spring weather in Holland. This underlines the fact that mussels are a natural product and that the weather plays a huge role in their growth cycle. Mussel growers will now start bringing their new crop slowly but surely to market; in batches, so that everyone will get the chance to sample the 2011 mussels. The verdict on this year's crop is very good: they are maybe a little bit smaller in size, but their excellent taste makes up for that. You will have to taste them yourself to see whether you agree. Mussel lovers on Aruba will be in good company, by the way: the world's top cyclists of the Tour de France were treated to them on their day of rest yesterday. They loved them!

Continued on Page 14

InselAir Inaugural Flight to Caracas a Success



ORANJESTAD - On July 18th, InselAir operated a successful inaugural flight from Curaçao to Caracas, Venezuela. In Caracas InselAir was welcomed by Venezuelan Minister of Tourism A. Fleming.

The Inaugural flight started with a small celebration and toast at Hato International Airport in Curaçao. Speeches were held by Chairman of the InselAir supervisory board, H van der Kwast, Lic. S. Alvarado-Rosel The consul of Venezuela and high officials such as Curaçao Prime minister and minister of General Affairs, G. Schotte and Curaçao Minister of Traffic, Transport and Urban Planning, C. Cooper.

Chairman of the InselAir supervisory board mr. H van der Kwast, opened the evening focusing on the growth InselAir has gone through in the last five years.

Continued on Page 15

Holland's first crop of mussels arrive Saturday



the trimmings: boiled and steeped in French white wine with a garnish of fresh vegetables like finely cut onions, celery, parsley and black, freshly ground pepper and thyme.

These traditional mussels are served with French bread, a salad and a choice of potatoes: french fries or new potatoes. The other way is the 'manera local': with Aruba's locally brewed Balashi beer, funchi instead of French bread and a choice of potatoes and a salad.

Funchi is a delicious local staple food.

Mussels are really healthy: they contain hardly any cholesterol at all, are rich in vitamins and good fatty acids. The 'Zeeuwse Mosselen' are world famous: they are tasty and chewy. Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across from the Radisson Resort on the hi-rise strip.

Photos show mussel importer Deli Caribbean Aruba's Rick Wouters, Papillon's manager Tina van Mal and trainee Stefanie Reumer (21) serving the black pots to guests. Stefanie is on Aruba for a three-month period for her education, which is Hogeschool Tio in Tilburg, Holland. □

Continued from Page 13

Papillon's chef will be preparing the mussels in two ways: the traditional and the local way. The classic traditional way is with all



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The inaugural flight arrived back in Curaçao at 1.20AM on Tuesday June 19th. The inaugural flight was the first flight in the new schedule. InselAir operates

between Curaçao and Caracas each workday. Flights are on sale for a special introduction price of \$150 until August 1st.

Continued from Page 13

"InselAir is growing fast, with the start up of the route to Medellin, the route to Charlotte and now the new route to Caracas, in the last 4 months." He also congratulated the InselAir board, management and all employees with the fast-growing airline. "InselAir is focusing on the training of new employees that will be added to the more than 300 employees, which helped grow InselAir to what it is today." Van der Kwast also stated that from 2012 InselAir will surpass the milestone of transporting 1 million passengers a year.



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Schleck shines, Contador slumps in Tour Stage 18

Three-time Tour de France winner Alberto Contador of Spain, right, strains as he tries to keep up with the pack climbing Galibier pass during the 18th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 124.6 miles starting in Pinerolo, Italy, and finishing on Galibier pass, Alps region, France, Thursday July 21, 2011.

Associated Press
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SPORTS Aruba TODAY

Court rejects Louisville Slugger appeal

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — The Montana Supreme Court on Thursday unanimously rejected an appeal of a jury's verdict that found the maker of Louisville Slugger baseball bats liable for the 2003 death of a player who was struck by a ball during a game in Helena. Hillerich & Bradsby is subject to liability to all players in a baseball game for the physical harm caused by its CB-13 model aluminum bat's increased exit speed, the court ruled in upholding the \$850,000 verdict to the parents of Brandon Patch. "The risk of harm accompanying the bat's use extends beyond the player who holds the bat in his or her hands. A warning of the bat's risks to only the batter standing at the plate inadequately communicates the potential risk of harm posed by the bat's increased exit speed," the court's ruling said.

The parents of the former Miles City American Legion baseball pitcher sued the company in 2006 with a product liability claim, saying an "unreasonably dangerous" metal bat caused his death and the manufacturer failed to warn the user of the dangers. Patch's parents had contended that their 18-year-old son did not have enough time to react to the ball being struck before it hit him in the head while he was pitching in an American Legion baseball game in Helena in 2003. The bat maker had argued Patch assumed the risk by playing the game and that he was not actually using the bat when he was struck.

Continued on Next Page

LET'S MAKE A DEAL

Owners vote in favor to end lockout

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, left, speaks with Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank during an NFL owners labor committee meeting in College Park, Ga., on Thursday, July 21, 2011.
Associated Press
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NFL owners vote for tentative deal

PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

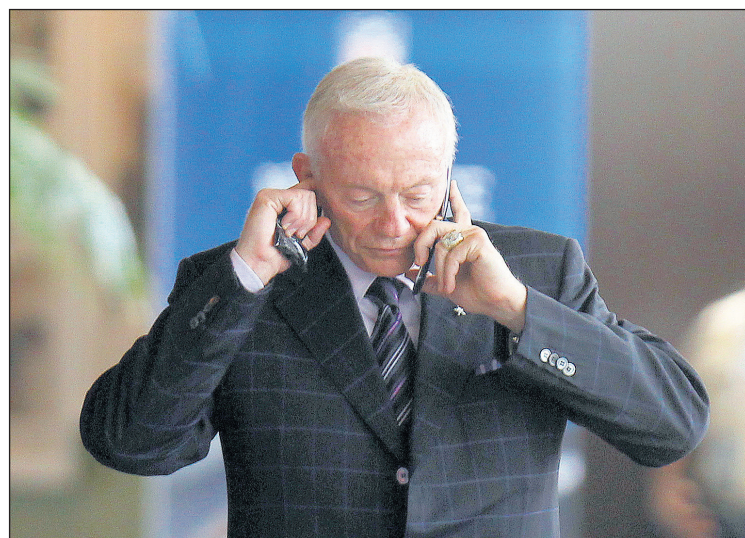
COLLEGE PARK, Georgia (AP) — NFL owners have

voted overwhelmingly in favor of a tentative 10-year agreement to end the lockout, pending player approval.

Thursday's vote was 31-0, with the Oakland Raiders abstaining from the ratification, which came after a full day of meetings at an Atlanta-area hotel. While owners pored over the terms, Commissioner Roger Goodell spoke on the phone several times with NFL Players Association head DeMaurice Smith, including filling him in on the results of the vote before it was announced.

"Hopefully, we can all work quickly, expeditiously, to get this agreement done," Commissioner Roger Goodell said. "It is time to get back to football. That's what everybody here wants to do."

Players still had to sign off on the deal — and they must re-establish their union, the



Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones talks on his phone during an NFL owners labor committee meeting in College Park, Ga., on Thursday, July 21, 2011.

Associated Press

NFL said. Players didn't vote on a full pact Wednesday because there were unresolved issues. They planned to have a conference call later Thursday.

However, Smith wrote in an email to the 32 player representatives shortly after the owners' decision:

"Issues that need to be collectively bargained remain open; other issues, such as workers' compensation, economic issues and end

of deal terms, remain unresolved. There is no agreement between the NFL and the Players at this time. I look forward to our call tonight."

The four-month lockout is the NFL's first work stoppage since 1987.

The first game on the pre-season schedule — the Aug. 7 Hall of Fame game between Chicago and St. Louis — was canceled Thursday.

"The time was just too tight," Goodell said. "Unfortunately, we're not going to be able to play the game this year."

Team facilities will open Saturday, and the new league year will begin Wednesday, he said — assuming the players approve the agreement, too.

The owners locked out players on March 12. During that time, teams weren't allowed to communicate with current NFL players; players — including those drafted in April — could not be signed; and teams did not pay for players' health insurance.

The basic framework for the league's new economic model — including how to split more than \$9 billion in annual revenues — was set up during negotiations last week.

But final issues involved how to set aside three pending court cases, including the antitrust lawsuit filed against the NFL in federal court in Minnesota by Tom Brady and nine other players.

NFL general counsel Jeff Pash said the owners' understanding is that that court case will be dismissed.

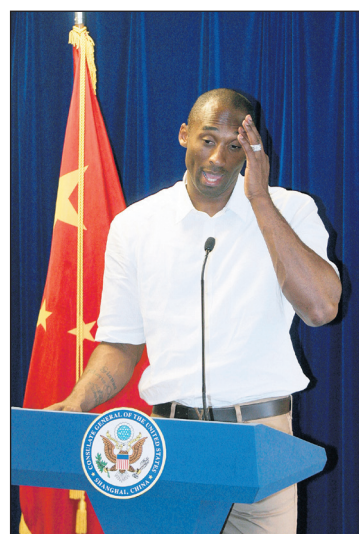
One thing the owners originally sought and won't get, at least right away, is expanding the regular season from 16 games to 18. That won't change before 2013, and the players must agree to a switch. □

Former Olympic sprinter Marion Jones cut by Shock

TULSA, Oklahoma (AP) —

Former Olympic gold medal-winning sprinter Marion Jones has been cut by the WNBA's Tulsa Shock, casting doubt over her basketball future. The Shock announced Thursday they had waived Jones to make room for Abi Olajuwon, the daughter of former NBA All-Star Hakeem Olajuwon. In her second season, Jones was averaging less than a point per game in 14 appearances for Tulsa, which is a league-worst 1-14 win-loss record heading into the All-Star break.

"I want to thank the Tulsa Shock, Coach (Nolan) Richardson, the WNBA and my tremendous teammates for providing me the opportunity to fulfill a dream, and a platform to demonstrate to people, especially our youth, that if you have faith, life is full of second chances," Jones said in a statement released by the team. "I love the game and welcome another opportunity to contribute to women's professional basketball." Jones was not available to comment further Thursday. Once among the world's best-known female athletes and the fastest woman in the world, Jones won three gold medals and two bronzes at the 2000 Sydney Olympics but ended up giving the medals back and serving about six months in prison after admitting she had lied to federal investigators about taking steroids. □



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant delivers a speech at the U.S. Consulate Tuesday, July 19, 2011 in Shanghai, China. Bryant is in Shanghai with a group of American students studying in China as official ambassador of the After-School All-Stars, an American non-profit organization that provides comprehensive after-school programs to children in several U.S. cities.

Associated Press

SELCAN HACAOLU
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish club Besiktas is in talks with Kobe Bryant's representatives about the possibility of the Los Angeles Lakers star playing in

Besiktas says it is in talks with Kobe Bryant

Turkey during the NBA lockout. "It is a fact that Kobe Bryant's managers have contacted us," coach Ergin Ataman said Thursday, a week after Besiktas signed New Jersey Nets point guard Deron Williams.

Ataman said Bryant was waiting for an offer from Besiktas. The club, however, said it would need a sponsor to be able to pay for Bryant's contract.

"Our board will evaluate that," Ataman said. Bryant has won five NBA titles with the Lakers and is a 13-time NBA All Star.

Representatives of some other NBA players have also contacted Besiktas, Ataman said, without naming any of them.

The Turkish League season starts in October.

Williams averaged 20.1 points and 10.3 assists for the Nets and the Utah Jazz last season. Besiktas signed Allen Iverson, the NBA's MVP in 2001, last year but

his time in Turkey was cut short due to injury.

Another NBA player, New Jersey Nets guard Sasha Vujacic, signed last week with Turkish club Anadolu Efes. The 27-year old Slovenian guard agreed to a one-year deal with an optional second year.

Nets' draft pick Bojan Bogdanovic also signed with Fenerbahce of the Turkish League in June.

Orlando Magic star Dwight Howard, a five-time All-Star, has said he would consider playing in China or Europe if the NBA lockout doesn't end.

Talks between the NBA and the union broke down June 30, and the owners decided to impose the league's first lockout since the 1998-99 season was shortened to 50 games. Both sides say there are significant differences between their proposals, raising the possibility that all or part of next season could be canceled. □

LOUISEVILLE SLUGGER

Continued from Page 17

A jury in 2009 sided with the Patches and awarded them \$850,000. The jury said the bat was not defective in design, but the ordinary user was not properly warned of its dangers.

The state Supreme Court's opinion, written by Justice Michael Wheat, said Hillerich & Bradsby's argument that the only method to provide a warning is directly on the bat was erroneous. The company could have issued oral warnings or placed warnings in advertisements, posters or press releases to communicate

to all players the potential risk of harm due to the bat's increased speed, the justices said.

The justices also rejected the company's argument that Patch had assumed the risk by voluntarily playing in the game. Patch knew he could be hit and he had been hit before, but continued playing anyway, the company had argued. The court said there was no evidence that Patch knew he would be seriously injured or killed when pitching to a batter who was using one of the company's aluminum bats, and the company failed to show that Patch was aware of the risk. □

AL Roundup

Granderson homer helps Yankees beat Rays

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Curtis Granderson's two-run homer backed a solid pitching performance by Freddy Garcia to lead the New York Yankees to a 4-0 win over the Tampa Bay Rays in the American League on Wednesday. Granderson homered off David Price (9-8) in the first inning. It was the only two runs allowed by Price over 7 1-3 innings. Garcia (8-7) struck out seven and walked none over 6 2-3 scoreless innings.

Red Sox 4, Orioles 0

In Baltimore, Jacoby Ellsbury hit two solo homers as Boston beat Baltimore to complete its sixth straight winning road trip. Ellsbury's homers put the Red Sox up 1-0 in the third inning and 3-0 in the seventh. Both drives came off Jake Arrieta (9-7), who has yielded a team-high 19 long balls in 20 starts.



Oakland Athletics designated hitter Hideki Matsui, of Japan, hits a solo home run against the Detroit Tigers during the sixth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, July 20, 2011, in Detroit. Matsui hit his 500th professional home run.

Associated Press

Red Sox starter Andrew Miller (4-1) lasted 5 2-3 scoreless innings in a wild but effective performance. He issued a career-high six walks.

Twins 7, Indians 5

In Minneapolis, Danny Valencia singled home the go-ahead run for the second straight day, this time in the eighth inning, as Minnesota beat Cleveland. Minnesota's Matt Capps (3-5) earned the win in relief of Nick Blackburn, who gave up one earned run in six innings.

Indians reliever Tony Sipp (4-2) allowed three runs in just a third of an inning.

Athletics 7, Tigers 5

In Detroit, Hideki Matsui hit his 500th professional homer and drove in three runs to lead Oakland over Detroit. Matsui led off the sixth inning with his milestone homer — 168 in the U.S. majors and 332 for the Yomiuri

Giants in Japan — to put Oakland up 3-2.

Detroit took the lead with three runs in the bottom of the sixth off reliever Joey Devine (1-1).

However Tigers reliever David Purcey (1-2) walked the first three batters of the seventh before being removed. Cliff Pennington singled to make it 5-4, and Josh Willingham's sacrifice fly tied the game. Matsui and Conor Jackson then hit RBI singles to give Oakland a 7-5 lead.

Blue Jays 11, Mariners 6

In Toronto, the hosts extended Seattle's losing skid to 11 games.

In other AL games it was Boston 4, Baltimore 0; Minnesota 7, Cleveland 5; Oakland 7, Detroit 5; Toronto 11, Seattle 6; N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 0; Kansas City 2, Chicago; White Sox 1, 11 innings; and L.A. Angels 9, Texas 8. □



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Brewers go to top of NL Central

PHOENIX (AP) — Milwaukee took over the lead in the National League's Central division with a 5-2 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks in 10 innings on Wednesday.

Ryan Braun homered in the first inning for the second straight game and got drove in the second of three Brewers runs in the 10th. Nyjer Morgan singled in the go-ahead run in the inning, and Rickie Weeks had the third RBI hit.

Diamondbacks rookie Ryan Cook (0-1) faced just four batters in the 10th but gave up three hits and a walk, along with a wild pitch and a balk. Arizona short-stop Stephen Drew hurt his right ankle sliding into home plate in the fourth. The team announced that surgery was likely.

On the next play, Milwaukee center fielder Carlos Gomez left with a broken left collar bone after making a diving catch. Milwaukee's Takashi Saito (2-1) pitched the ninth to get the win, and John Axford the 10th for his 26th save.

Rockies 3, Braves 2

In Denver, Carlos Gonzalez singled home the winning run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth to lift Colorado over Atlanta.

Braves reliever Eric O'Flaherty (1-3) retired his first two batters before third baseman Martin Prado let Dexter Fowler's grounder go through his legs for a two-base error.

After an intentional walk, Gonzalez slapped his first pitch into right field, scoring Fowler from second.

That made a winner out of Huston Street (1-3), who threw a 1-2-3 ninth that ended with Fowler catching a drive against the wall.

Dodgers 1, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Clayton Kershaw was one pitch better than Tim Lincecum in a matchup of All-Star aces, leading Los Angeles past San Francisco.

Kershaw (11-4) went eight innings and struck out 12 to improve his majors-leading total in that category.

The Dodgers snapped a four-game losing skid and six straight to the Giants.



Arizona Diamondbacks' Stephen Drew turns his ankle around after being tagged out by Milwaukee Brewers catcher Jonathan Lucroy during the fourth inning of a baseball game on Wednesday, July 20, 2011, in Phoenix. Drew was injured on the play and left the game.

Associated Press

Dioner Navarro's home run off Lincecum (8-8) landed in McCovey Cove beyond right field, and was the only pop Los Angeles showed on a day hitting coach Jeff Pentland was fired.

Dave Hansen was promoted on an interim basis for the rest of the season.

Los Angeles closer Javy Guerra pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save.

Phillies 9, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Jimmy Rollins homered from both sides of the plate as Philadelphia pounded Chicago.

Rollins hit solo shots batting left-handed against Ramon Ortiz in the sixth and from the right side against John Grabow in the eighth.

Phillies starter Vance Worley (6-1) pitched eight dominant innings, giving up one run, to win his fourth straight start and continues to fill in

ably for the injured Roy Oswalt and Joe Blanton.

In other NL games it was Cincinnati 3, Pittsburgh 1; Houston 3, Washington 2, 11 innings; Philadelphia 9, Chicago Cubs 1; L.A. Dodgers 1, San Francisco 0; San Diego 14, Florida 3; N.Y. Mets 6, St. Louis 5, 10 innings; Colorado 3, Atlanta 2; and Milwaukee 5, Arizona 2, 10 innings. □

Galaxy beats Crew to stretch unbeaten run

CARSON, California (AP) — The Los Angeles Galaxy pushed its unbeaten streak in Major League Soccer to 13 games by beating the Columbus Crew 1-0 on Wednesday. The goal came in the 70th minute when David Beckham's free kick bounced off the wall of defenders and back into the middle of the pitch where defender Sean Franklin hit a low shot from 25 yards for his first Major League Soccer goal. The Galaxy has not lost since May 1 and is unbeaten in 11 home games this season. Beckham was given a yellow card in stoppage time for not attempting a free kick in a timely manner.

Colorado Rapids 4, New York Red Bulls 1

In Commerce City, Colorado, Sanna Nyassi's hat

trick led Colorado over New York. It was Nyassi's first three goals of the year and only the seventh hat trick in Rapids history. Wells Thompson also scored for the defending champions. Colorado needed a lift, as leading scorer Conor Casey earlier in the day had surgery to repair a torn Achilles tendon and is expected to be sidelined for at least eight months.

New York's Thierry Henry went to the top of the MLS scoring charts by notching his 10th goal of the season but the Red Bulls remained winless in their past nine road games.

Toronto 0, Dallas 1

In Toronto, Brek Shea scored his ninth goal of the season to give Dallas an away win over Toronto. The 21-year-old Shea, who has worked



Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder David Beckham, left, fights for the ball with Columbus Crew midfielder Robbie Rogers during the second half of an MLS soccer match, Wednesday, July 20, 2011, in Carson, Calif.

Associated Press

his way into the senior U.S. squad, joined Landon Donovan on nine goals, one behind Henry's 10. He almost levelled the Frenchman's tally in the 61st minute but his shot was blocked by the

leg of Toronto goalkeeper Stefan Frei. Toronto's Joao Plata got the ball in the net in the 53rd-minute, but it was ruled out for offside. Maicon Santos and Ryan Johnson came close to

equalizing in the closing stages, but Toronto ended a third straight game goalless.

D.C. United 0, New England Revolution 1

In Washington, New England ended a nine-game winless streak and took its first road win of the season with victory at D.C. United. Chris Tierney's corner was headed in by Stephen McCarthy in the 73rd minute. The Revolution may have been in the midst of a club-record winless stretch but won their fifth consecutive game against United, which has not won at home since early May.

D.C. missed a penalty late in the first half, with Charlie Davis blasting the ball over the middle of the crossbar.

San Jose Earthquakes 2, Vancouver Whitecaps 2

In Santa Clara, Chris Wondolowski scored his first two goals since May to help San Jose draw with Vancouver. □

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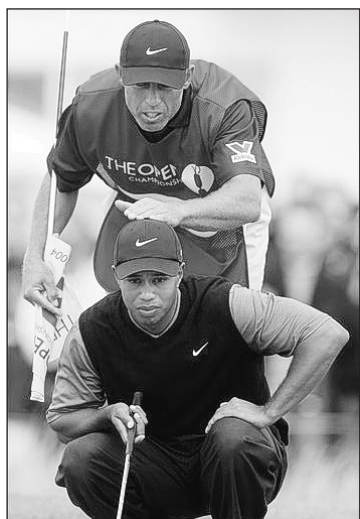
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Tiger will cope without Williams, says O'Meara

WALTON ON THE HILL, England (AP) — Mark O'Meara says Tiger Woods has lost one of the best caddies around in Steve Williams but believes his close friend will cope without the New Zealander.

O'Meara last communicated with Woods about three or four weeks ago by text and knew of the 14-time major winner's plans to split with Williams after 12 years. O'Meara tells the Associated Press that "they had a great run together as a team. Steve Williams is a loyal guy but Tiger is Tiger." Speaking Thursday after the first round of the Senior British Open at Walton Heath in south England, the two-time major champion says "for a caddie, there's not much better than Steve Williams. But as good as Ti-



This July 17, 2004, file photo shows Tiger Woods of the United States and his caddy Steve Williams lining up a putt on the second green on the third day of the British Open golf championship at Royal Troon golf course in Troon, Scotland.

Associated Press

ger can play at times, he doesn't need a whole lot of help out there." □

Walter Dix clocks 20.02 to win 200 at Lucerne

LUCERNE, Switzerland (AP) — United States sprinter Walter Dix ran the season's third-fastest 200 meters at the Spitzen meeting on Thursday.

Dix timed 20.02 seconds on a still, overcast evening, leaving Marvin Anderson of Jamaica trailing by more than a half-second.

Olympic champion Usain Bolt's 19.86 in Oslo last month and fellow Jamaican Nickel Ashmeade's 19.95 in Kingston are the only faster legal times in this world championships season.

Dix raced in Europe for the first time this season after winning national titles over 100 and 200 meters.

Ashmeade won the 100 in 10.24 seconds, slowed by a slight headwind.

Two-time Olympic champion Andreas Thorkildsen of Norway won the javelin with a throw of 84.12 meters. □



Andy Schleck wins 18th stage of Tour de France

**JAMEY KEATEN, Associated Press
LE MONETIER-LES-BAINS, France (AP)** — Andy Schleck led a daring at-

tack in the Alps to win the 18th stage of the Tour de France on Thursday, a display of panache that puts him within seconds of the yellow jersey and quashed Alberto Contador's hopes of a fourth title.

France's Thomas Voeckler, in a show of grit of his own, narrowly kept the coveted leader's shirt by muscling up a punishing final climb to limit the damage at the end of the 205-kilometer (125-mile) trek from Pinerolo, Italy, to Galibier Serre-Chevalier ski station in France. Contador started the stage trailing Voeckler by several minutes after a rough start to the three-week race and finished it with a dismal final climb, leading him to declare that his chances in cycling's showcase race were over. "Victory is impossible now," Contador said. "I had a bad day. My legs didn't respond and I just hit a wall. It was a very difficult day right from the start."

Schleck, a 26-year-old rider from Luxembourg, attacked his top rivals on the second of three grueling climbs and held on all the way up to the highest-altitude finish in the race's 108-year history, on the fabled Galibier pass.

"I told the team yesterday that I had this in mind. I wasn't going to be fourth in Paris," Schleck said of his place in the standings as the stage began. "I said I'd risk it all and it worked well." "It's my character: I'm not



Stage winner Andy Schleck of Luxembourg crosses the finish line on Galibier pass to win the 18th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 124.6 miles starting in Pinerolo, Italy, and finishing on Galibier pass, Alps region, France, Thursday July 21, 2011.

Associated Press

afraid to lose," he said. "Tomorrow is another day, and I hope to have the yellow jersey."

Standing next to Schleck, Voeckler — who has repeatedly insisted that he can't win when the race finishes Sunday in Paris — quipped: "You'll get it."

Frank Schleck was second on Thursday behind his younger brother, trailing by 2 minutes, 7 seconds, and two-time Tour runner-up Cadel Evans of Australia was third. Voeckler was 2:21 behind, the French cyclist keeping his overall lead by a mere 15 seconds from Andy Schleck. The elder Schleck is third overall, 1:08 back. Evans is fourth, 1:12 off the pace.

"Please let me breathe," an exhausted Voeckler told journalists at the finish, mustering the strength to raise a fist in joy once he saw he'd kept the yellow jersey. "At 2,650 meters, the oxygen is thin." "I limited the damage," he added. "I went all out." Schleck, the Leopard Trek team leader, came

in knowing that he would need to gain time on rivals ahead of Saturday's time trial — a discipline that's not his specialty.

On Friday, the pack faces the last of three days in the Alps. It again features an uphill finish at the renowned and dreaded Alpe d'Huez. Ahead of the stage, Contador tweeted in Spanish about "What leg pain!" awaiting on three climbs so tough that they defy cycling's rating climbs: the Col d'Agnel, the Col d'Izoard and the Col du Galibier.

By the end, the Spaniard was the day's biggest loser, finishing in 15th place — 3:50 behind. Contador now trails Voeckler by 4:44, in seventh place overall.

The pack scaled more than 60 kilometers (37 miles) of total climbs, about one-third of which had a gradient of more than 9 percent. Tour director Christian Prudhomme called the 23.7-kilometer (14.7-mile) Col d'Agnel — at 2,744 meters (9,000 feet) — the hardest climb in this year's race. □

Analysis:

Alzheimer's debate: Test if can't treat?

MARILYNN MARCHIONE

AP Medical Writer

PARIS (AP) — Picture yourself in Barbara Leshner's shoes: 54 years old and fearing you are developing Alzheimer's disease. "I don't remember if I had a bath," said Leshner, who lives north of Harrisburg, Pa. "It took me two hours to follow a recipe. I drove to my childhood home-stead the other week instead of my own home. It's really scary."

Doctors are arguing about whether to test patients for signs of the incurable disease and tell them the results.

The debate raged this past week at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in France, where research on new methods — easier brain scans, an eye test, a blood test — made it clear there soon may be more such tools available.

Here's why it's an issue: Many people have brain plaques, suggesting they might be developing Alzheimer's even if they don't have any symptoms. This plaque can be seen decades beforehand and does not ensure someone will get the disease. Many also won't live long enough to develop symptoms.

For those who do have Alzheimer's, there are no good treatments. Current drugs ease symptoms — they work for half who try them and for less than a year on average. Most experts think treatment starts too late, but there's no evidence that starting sooner or learning you have brain plaque will help. Experts are divided.

"We have to look for patients or signatures of the disease at earlier stages," urged Dr. Harald Hampel of the University of Frankfurt, Germany.

But Dr. Kenneth Rockwood

of Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, says there is no data "to show that knowing makes any difference in outcomes.

Until we do, this is going to be a tough sell."

More than 35 million people worldwide have Alzheimer's, the most com-

portunity to help.

A new medication or combination of medications may suddenly make someone appear demented. Brain fog can occur after surgery and abate over time.

Sleep problems are common in older people and can cause profound con-

tion.

"Sometimes it's thyroid disease, or depression, or vitamin B-12 deficiency — something that's very treatable," he said.

Testing someone with symptoms is far less controversial than testing people with no symptoms but a lot of fear. Doctors worry

er's risk, has no obligation to disclose the results to a patient until there is a meaningful treatment for the disease, Karlawish argued at the conference.

The more symptoms a patient has, the more justified it is to help understand what is known about possible reasons, he said.

Lynda Hogg of Edinburgh, Scotland, is very glad her doctors diagnosed her Alzheimer's in 2006. She is doing exceptionally well on one of the existing drugs and is in a clinical trial for an experimental one she hopes will help her and help advance knowledge in the field.

At a discussion connected with the conference, she said the early diagnosis helped her get financial and legal matters in order and serve on the Scottish Dementia Working Group and the board of Alzheimer's Disease International. "I am certain involvement keeps me focused and involved in society," she said.

The Alzheimer's Association says early diagnosis and evaluation can bring the following benefits:

- Treatment of reversible causes of impairment.
- Access to drugs that help treat symptoms.
- Inclusion in clinical trials that give expert care.
- Avoiding drugs that can worsen cognition.
- Letting others know of a need for help managing medicines and daily life.
- Easing anxiety about the cause of symptoms.
- Access to education, training and support services.
- The ability to plan for the future.

Leshner, the woman from Pennsylvania, wishes she had a clearer picture of what lies ahead for her.

"Not being able to get diagnosed is the most frustrating thing in the world," she said. □



French President Nicolas Sarkozy delivers a speech as he attends the International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease (ICAD) in Paris, Wednesday, July 20, 2011.

(AP Photo/Gonzalo Fuentes/Pool)

mon form of dementia. In the U.S., more than 5 million do — 13 percent of those 65 and over, and 43 percent of those 85 and up, a rapidly growing group.

Still, half of people who meet medical criteria for dementia have not been diagnosed with it, the Alzheimer's Association estimates. And many who are told they have Alzheimer's or are assumed to have it really don't.

Even when researchers use the best cognitive tests to enroll people in clinical trials, about 10 percent ultimately are discovered not to have the disease, said William Thies, the Alzheimer's Association's scientific director.

"The Alzheimer's drugs don't work in these folks, so there's no reason to expose them to those risks," said Thies, long an advocate of early diagnosis.

Misdiagnosis is a lost op-

fusion that can be misinterpreted as dementia, according to research presented at the conference by Dr. Kristine Yaffe of the University of California, San Francisco.

"Some of these are treatable" by avoiding naps during the day or treating sleep apnea, in which brief interruptions of breathing cause people to wake during the night, Yaffe said. Snoring is a big sign. Older people with sleep problems are more likely to be put in nursing homes, she said.

Dr. R. Scott Turner, director of the memory disorders program at Georgetown University Medical Center, has seen that all too often. "I'm certainly in the camp that screening should be done," he said.

Many patients are simply declared to have dementia without testing to see if they have another condi-

tion that these newer methods, such as an easier type of brain scan that's expected to be available within months, will be directly marketed to the public, prompting expensive and excessive testing based on fear.

"The phrase you often hear is that the 'Big A' (Alzheimer's) has replaced the 'Big C' (cancer)" as a major source of fear, said Dr. Jason Karlawish, a University of Pennsylvania ethicist specializing in dementia issues.

Recent guidelines by the U.S. National Institute on Aging and the Alzheimer's Association say these tests should be used only in research until they have been standardized and validated as useful and accurate tools.

A researcher using one of these tests, such as a spinal fluid check for a substance that may predict Alzheim-

Microsoft 4Q profit climbs, Windows revenue dips

RACHEL METZ

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Microsoft Corp. reported record fourth-quarter revenue Thursday, helped by strong sales of its Office software suite. Investors still seem concerned about the world's largest software maker's growth prospects, however, as consumers buy fewer computers that run its Windows software.

While all of the company's other business units posted growth in the April-June period, revenue from the division that includes Microsoft's Windows operating system fell 1 percent from the same time last year — its third-straight quarter of decline.

Besides indicating that consumers are buying fewer computers that use Windows, it may signify that more consumers are mov-

ing to tablet computers instead of upgrading their existing laptop and desktop computers. Microsoft's stock slipped in extended trading.

Total revenue for the fiscal fourth quarter rose 8 percent from last year to \$17.4 billion, higher than the \$17.2 billion that analysts polled by FactSet expected.

Growing Office sales helped revenue from the company's largest division climb nearly 8 percent to \$5.78 billion. Microsoft said its results were also aided by higher software and server sales to businesses and the popularity of its Xbox 360 video game console and Kinect motion-sensing game control device.

However, sales in the company's Windows and Windows Live division were soft, dipping to \$4.74 billion from \$4.78 billion. Microsoft said

it would have grown were it not for the launch of Windows 7 a year ago, which made comparisons more difficult this year.

Investors have been focused on this segment of the business amid concern that the increasing popularity of tablets like Apple Inc.'s iPad are cutting into sales of computers that use Microsoft's operating software.

And since this unit already declined in the previous two quarters, pressure had intensified on Microsoft to show growth during the three-month period that ended in June — especially since worldwide PC shipments rose in the range of 2.3 percent to 2.6 percent during the quarter, according to reports from research firms IDC and Gartner.

With Apple's report earlier this week that iPad sales



In this file photo made March 10, 2010, Microsoft Windows 7 products are shown for sale in Mountain View, Calif. Microsoft Corp., reports quarterly financial results Thursday, July 21, 2011, after the market close.

Associated Press

nearly doubled year over year to 9.25 million, Microsoft may have an even harder time showing that it can compete as the computing world continues to move toward tablets. The iPad's success prodded Microsoft to develop an operating system that can run on tablets, dubbed Windows 8, but that isn't expected to hit the market until next year.

Revenue from Microsoft's online services unit, which includes the company's Bing search engine, climbed 17 percent to \$662 million. The division's operating loss widened, however, since the company has continued to invest in a mostly fruitless effort to undercut Google Inc.'s domi-

nance of online search and advertising.

Investors still seem concerned about the world's largest software maker's growth prospects, however, as consumers buy fewer computers that run its Windows software.

Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft earned \$5.87 billion, or 69 cents per share during the quarter, compared with \$4.52 billion, or 51 cents per share, a year ago.

Analysts polled by FactSet expected a profit of 59 cents per share.

For the full fiscal year, Microsoft earned \$23.2 billion, or \$2.69 per share, on \$69.94 billion in revenue. □

Toyota's new pre-crash technology directs steering

YURI KAGEYAMA

AP Business Writer

SUSONO, Japan (AP) — Toyota is developing a safety technology that takes control of the steering so the vehicle can veer away when it isn't able to stop before impact. Toyota Motor Corp. showed some of its up and coming safety innovations in a demonstration to reporters Thursday at its facility in this town, west of Tokyo, near Mount Fuji.

All the world's automakers are working on special safety technology in an effort to woo customers, as competition intensifies among manufacturers already neck-and-neck in delivering the regular features for their products.

Cars that stop or slow down automatically before an object or person in anticipation of a possible crash are not new. But Toyota's latest pre-collision system adds a steering-control feature.

In the new system, Toyota uses cameras and a super sensitive radar called "millimeter-wave," both



Toyota cars crash during a collision test in a demonstration of its safety technology at its facility in Susono, near Mount Fuji, Japan, Thursday, July 21, 2011. Toyota is developing a safety technology that takes control of the steering so the vehicle can veer away when it isn't able to stop before impact

Associated Press

installed in the front of the vehicle, to detect possible crashes such as a pedestrian crossing the road.

The vehicle calculates how braking and steering must be applied to avoid a crash, said chief safety technology officer Moritaka Yoshida.

"We must learn from accidents and keep making improvements in safety features," he said.

The Japanese automaker declined to say when the feature may be offered on a commercial model, or in which markets, but officials

hinted it was ready to be offered soon.

Toyota said it was aiming for zero fatalities and injuries, although it did not say when that goal would be achieved.

Fatalities have been declining in auto accidents, because of better safety features, but deaths among pedestrians in traffic accidents have not gone down in Japan.

Protecting pedestrians is increasingly key, according to Toyota, which makes the Prius hybrid and Lexus luxury models. □

Hackers claim to have breach NATO security

CASSANDRA VINOGRAD

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A group of computer hackers on Thursday claimed to have breached NATO security and accessed hoards of restricted material.

The group called Anonymous said it would be "irresponsible" to publish most of the material it stole from NATO but that it is sitting on about 1 gigabyte of data.

Anonymous posted a PDF file on its Twitter page showing what appeared to be a document headed "NATO Restricted" and dated Aug. 27, 2007.

"Hi NATO," the group teased on Twitter. "Yes, we haz more of your delicious data," hinting that more would be released in the next few days.

A NATO official, who could not be named under standing rules, said the organization was aware that a hacker group had released what it claimed to be classified NATO documents on the Internet.

"NATO security experts are investigating these claims," the official said. "We strongly condemn any leak of classified documents, which can potentially endanger the security of NATO allies, armed forces and citizens." □

Fare hikes help United Continental and US Airways

JOSHUA FREED
AP Airlines Writer

Fare increases gave United Continental and US Airways profitable quarters despite the financial damage the airlines suffered from sharply higher fuel prices.

On Thursday both airlines reported smaller second-quarter profits than a year ago — down almost 12 percent at United Continental, and a 67 percent drop at US Airways.

Airlines have put growth plans on the shelf and, especially at United, focused on getting more business travelers on board. That has allowed the airlines to raise fares. On Thursday, some airlines attempted a fare increase of up to \$20 round-trip.

"The reason they're able to raise fares is because of choices they've made by keeping capacity down,

by looking to raise fares instead of gain market share, by trying to attract higher-yielding passengers in the cabin rather than just filling the cabin, by waiting longer to put fares on sale," said Standard & Poors airline analyst James Corridore.

The boost in ticket prices is a reaction to high fuel prices. American Airlines parent AMR Corp. said Wednesday it paid \$547 million more for fuel in the second quarter than a year ago. It lost \$286 million.

United Continental Holdings Inc. earned \$538 million in the quarter. Revenue rose more than 10 percent to \$9.81 billion, even though traffic was flat. That's the fare increases at work. Fuel costs rose by \$1 billion, or 45 percent from a year ago.



In this July 19, 2011 photo, baggage is unloaded from a U.S. Airways jet at Logan International Airport in Boston. US Airways Group Inc. said Thursday, July 21, its second-quarter profit fell 67 percent as fuel prices jumped.

Associated Press

Oil tops \$100 for first time since early June

CHRIS KAHN
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil topped \$100 per barrel on Thursday for the first time since early June on an improving outlook for the U.S. economy, and European leaders moved closer to agreement on more financial aid for Greece.

The Conference Board said its index of leading economic indicators rose 0.3 percent in June. The increase suggested the economy won't fall back into a recession over the next few months, even with high unemployment and a weak housing market.

Officials in Europe prepared a new rescue package for Greece at an emergency summit in Brussels. The move strengthened the euro relative to the dollar. Oil, which is priced in dollars, tends to rise as the dollar weakens and makes crude cheaper for investors holding foreign currencies.

"We're getting some good news again," independent oil analyst Jim Ritterbusch said. "When that happens, commodities start to look attractive."

Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for August delivery rose 73 cents to settle at \$99.13 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It reached \$100.16 earlier in the day.

Brent crude, which is used to price many international varieties, fell 64 cents to settle at \$117.51 per barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Meanwhile, the International Energy Agency said it may release more oil to hold off future oil price spikes. The IEA, which announced plans last month to dump millions of barrels onto the market, said it "stands ready" to add more if needed.

On June 23 the IEA said it will release 60 million barrels of oil, mostly from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve, to make up for 1.5 million barrels of daily exports lost after Libya was engulfed in an anti-government rebellion that started in February. □

Hedging gains of \$278 million took away some of the sting. US Airways Group Inc. earned \$92 million. Revenue rose more than 10 percent, to \$3.5 billion. Its fuel cost jumped almost 54 percent to \$948 million.

Oil prices haven't reached the record levels of 2008, but they remain high. Average jet fuel prices for this year are on track to be as high as the 2008 average, maybe higher, said US Airways Chairman and CEO Doug Parker.

President Scott Kirby said some airlines ran sales that lowered fares in June. Before that, planes weren't quite as full but passengers were paying more, which Kirby said worked in the airline's favor. He said he's "cautiously optimistic" that prices bottomed in June

and will begin to climb again.

Even with Thursday's attempted fare increase, the pace has slowed. The last successful increase was in April, according to Rick Seaney of FareCompare.com.

United Continental it's still been able to raise fares through "revenue management strategies."

In the airline industry, that includes tactics such as managing the number of seats sold at a discount and changing prices as a plane fills up. United Continental's average fare per passenger rose 12.5 percent to \$273. Airlines are also reducing the amount of flying they do, allowing them to charge more for the seats that are available. United Continental said its third-

quarter capacity will fall 1 percent. It will drop nearly 3 percent in the fourth quarter, compared to a year earlier.

Fuel also hurt results at Alaska Air Group Inc., the parent of Alaska Airlines. Second-quarter net income fell by half to \$28.8 million, even though traffic rose 10 percent and revenue rose 13.7 percent to \$1.11 billion. Adjusted profits at United Continental were slightly higher than analyst estimates, while US Airways and Alaska matched expectations.

Shares of Chicago-based United Continental rose 6 cents to close at \$20.34, while US Airways, based in Tempe, Arizona, was unchanged at \$6.90. Seattle-based Alaska Air rose 25 cents to close at \$65.95. □

Gov't ends Chrysler investment; Fiat ups stake

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government no longer owns a piece of Chrysler.

Italian automaker Fiat SpA paid \$560 million for the government's remaining 98,000 shares of Chrysler Group LLC, the U.S. Treasury Department said Thursday. Fiat has run the company since it emerged from bankruptcy protection in 2009.

U.S. taxpayers gave \$12.5 billion to Chrysler and its financing arm after the recession hampered auto sales and brought Chrysler and General Motors Co. to the brink of collapse. The funds came from the government's \$700 billion bank bailout fund.

Under a bankruptcy deal, Fiat received a

20 percent stake in Chrysler for taking over management of the Detroit carmaker. The Italian automaker has gradually raised its stake in Chrysler, and Thursday's purchase of the last U.S. shares, along with a small stake held by Canada, means Fiat owns 53.5 percent.

Now that Fiat has majority control of the company, CEO Sergio Marchionne, who runs both carmakers, plans to consolidate management of the companies. But he faces a thorny political decision of where to place the corporate headquarters. Fiat is Italy's largest employer and a source of national pride. U.S. politicians are likely to be upset if the new company is based in Turin, Italy, where Fiat is headquartered. □



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POWER - BALL - PROGRESSIVE - BONUS PRIZES

Economy's spring slump could last through summer

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The

U.S. economy's spring slump appears to be extending into the summer, according to a slew of mixed data released Thursday.

Layoffs are rising. Manufacturing activity in the Northeast expanded only slightly in July after contracting in June. Economic growth is projected to pick up this fall, but not enough to give businesses confidence to hire and speed the recovery.

The economy could lapse even further if Congress and the Obama administration fail to reach an agreement on raising the nation's borrowing limit in the coming week.

But for the moment, traders on Wall Street don't seem worried. Stocks soared Thursday on news that European governments were moving toward agreement on an aid package for Greece. The Dow Jones industrial average closed 152 points up for the day.

Economists are less optimistic. They are forecasting a third straight month of feeble hiring in July, based on the latest round of data. Expectations are the economy added somewhere in the range of 50,000 to 100,000 net new jobs this month.

That's not enough to keep up with population growth and far below what is needed to lower the unemployment rate, which was 9.2 percent last month.

Researchers: Gulf drilling could add 230,000 jobs

CHRIS KAHN

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — An energy research group predicted that an increase in drilling activity in the Gulf of Mexico could create 230,000 jobs and add \$44 billion to the U.S. economy next year.

IHS on Thursday said that the U.S. would produce more jobs, more tax revenue and another 411,000 barrels of oil per day if the industry was allowed to operate at full speed in the Gulf.

The government essentially shut down offshore drilling for several months last year after BP's massive oil spill while it put new safety regulations in place.

In February, regulators started granting drilling permits again for deepwater wells, but at a slower pace

than before the spill. They say stricter guidelines now in place for permits help ensure that drillers operate safely.

Daniel Yergin, an IHS vice chairman and oil historian, said the point of the study was to show what's possible with a resurgence in Gulf drilling.

"If we continue at this very low pace, we'll have a much weaker industry and activity will be concentrated more in other countries," Yergin said.

His statement echoes the oil industry's claim that new regulations are unnecessarily slowing the pace of drilling in the Gulf and costing the U.S. jobs while contributing to high oil and gasoline prices.

A government spokeswoman wouldn't comment about the IHS report. □



In this July 13, 2011 photo, a HomeTec sign sits by the companies booth as hundreds of attendees are shown visiting with prospective employers during a National Career Fairs job fair, in Dallas.

Associated Press

"We're going to see improvement, but right now nothing's improved yet," said Joshua Dennerlein, an economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Applications for unemployment benefits rose last week to a seasonally adjusted 418,000, the Labor Department said. They have now topped 400,000 for 15 straight weeks. Applications had fallen in February to 375,000, a level that signals healthy job growth. The Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank said its manufacturing index rose to 3.2 in July, a sign that the sector is growing again. It had contracted in June for the first time in nine months. The index dropped to negative 7.7, the lowest level in two years. Any figure below zero indicates contraction. The index had topped 40 in March. The lower reading illustrates the impact of a parts shortage caused by the Japanese earthquake, which has affected many U.S. automakers and

electronics producers. Still, manufacturers expressed some hope in the latest survey, saying they expect orders and shipments to pick up significantly six months from now.

The Conference Board projected modest growth for the broader economy in the coming months based on its latest reading of leading economic indicators. The index rose in June for the second straight month. It had declined in April, the first time that had happened in nearly a year. The private research group offered a caveat: U.S. lawmakers must agree to raise the government's borrowing limit and avoid a catastrophic default on the debt.

The federal government has reached its borrowing limit of \$14.3 trillion, and the Obama administration says the government won't be able to pay all its bills if the cap isn't raised by Aug. 2. Congressional Republicans have demanded steep

spending cuts in return for raising the limit. The White House wants to raise some taxes as well, which House Republicans adamantly oppose. The impasse has lasted for weeks.

"The sooner legislators can come to some agreement the better," Ellen Zentner, an economist at Nomura Securities, said in a research note. "The economic uncertainty caused by the quickly approaching Aug. 2 deadline has already damaged the recovery."

The economy expanded only 1.9 percent in the January-March quarter. Analysts forecast even weaker growth for the April-June period. The government gives its first reading for second-quarter growth next Friday. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and other economist have largely attributed the slumping economy to temporary factors.

High gas prices caused consumers to pull back on spending. □

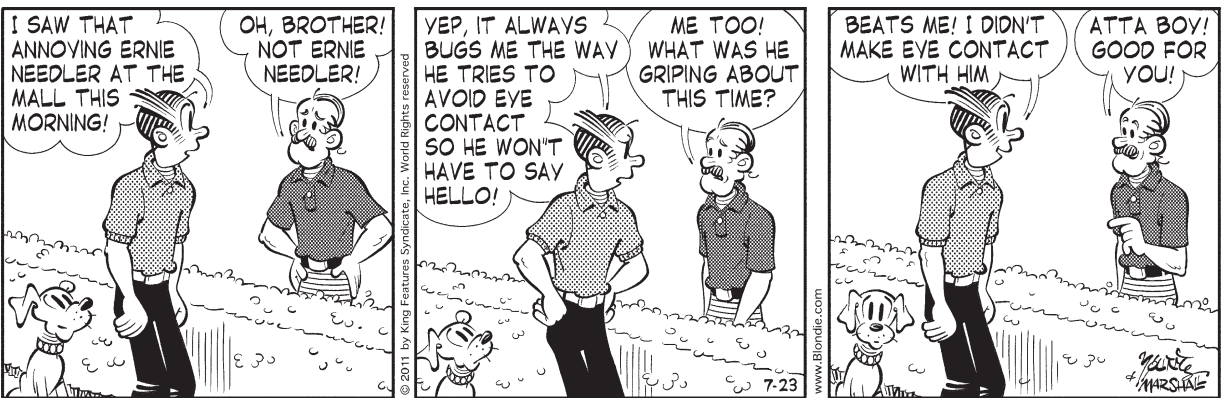
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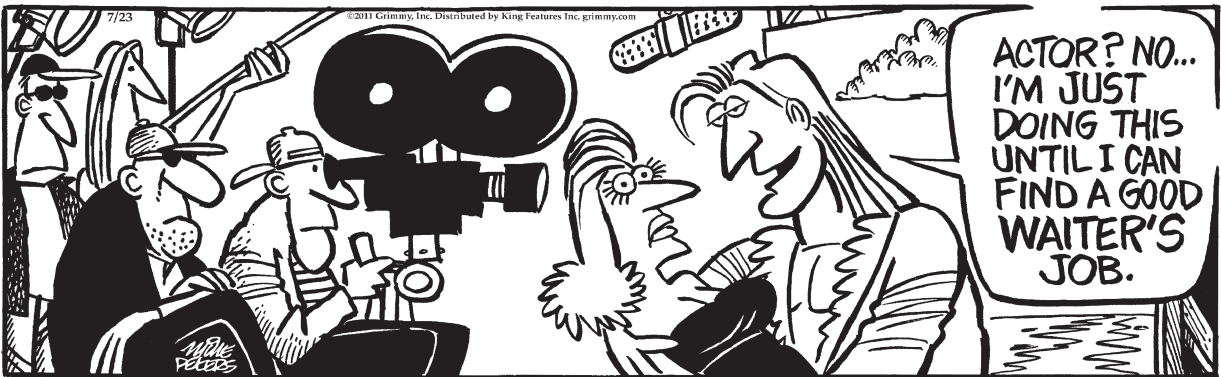
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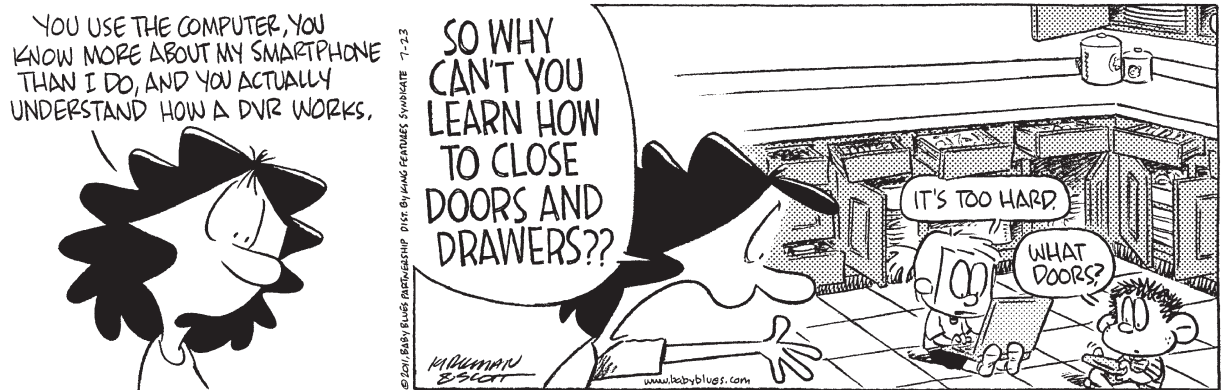
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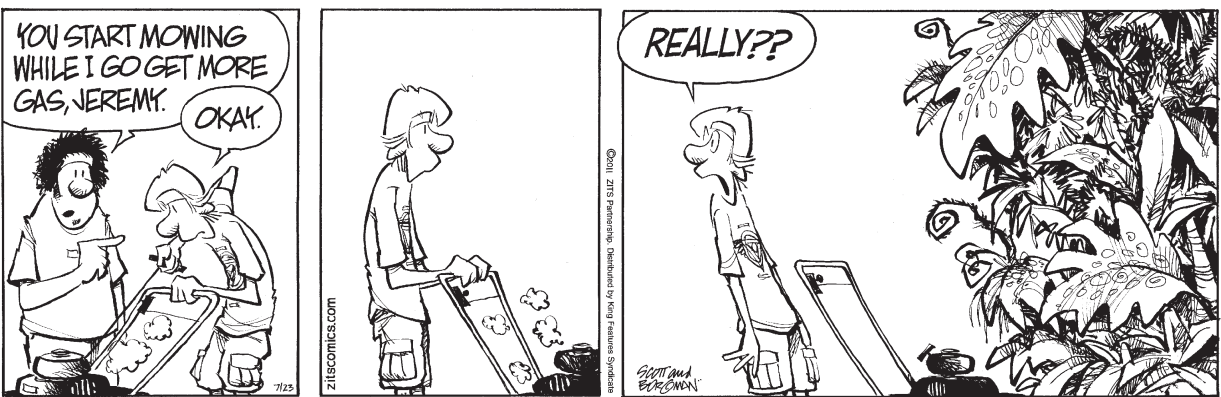
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

							6	
	4			3			5	
7		9	5			8		
5					7		4	
				9				
	1		6					3
		5			4	7		1
	3			1			2	
	2							

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

6	1	3	9	8	2	5	7	4
2	7	9	5	4	1	8	6	3
5	8	4	7	3	6	2	9	1
9	2	5	8	6	4	3	1	7
3	4	1	2	5	7	6	8	9
8	6	7	1	9	3	4	5	2
4	9	6	3	1	8	7	2	5
1	3	2	6	7	5	9	4	8
7	5	8	4	2	9	1	3	6

ACROSS

- 1 Informal talks
- 6 Likelihood
- 10 Corncocks
- 14 Contradict
- 15 Chess piece
- 16 Shine
- 17 Sports venue
- 18 Pond growth
- 19 Great anger
- 20 ___ on; ponder
- 22 Was rife
- 24 Friendly
- 25 Invalid's painful lesion
- 26 Failed to recall
- 29 Hawks & jays
- 30 Actress Gabor
- 31 Approaches
- 33 Bread ingredient
- 37 Take care of
- 39 Sag
- 41 Insulting remark
- 42 Prank; caper
- 44 ___ depressive; bipolar
- 46 Expert
- 47 Tear to bits
- 49 Cleared the slate
- 51 ___ oneself; studied hard
- 54 Aside ___; in addition to
- 55 Laying a ceramic floor
- 56 Jane and Rosalind
- 60 Ooze out
- 61 Withered
- 63 Ice cream serving utensil
- 64 Unwanted facial spots
- 65 ___ shot; unlikely winner
- 66 ___ apso; small Tibetan dog
- 67 Grain sowed
- 68 Rim
- 69 Neighbor of Saudi Arabia

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21			22	23			
		24					25					
26	27	28					29					
30			31		32			33	34	35	36	
37		38		39			40		41			
42			43		44			45		46		
		47	48				49		50			
51	52	53					54					
55						56				57	58	59
60					61	62			63			
64					65				66			
67					68				69			

7/23/11

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A	B	L	E		G	H	A	N	A		A	W	E	S		
W	R	I	T		R	I	D	E	R		L	A	V	A		
R	I	S	E		E	N	D	E	D		I	D	E	S		
Y	E	A	R	N	E	D				D	O	B	B	I	N	S
				N	O	D			T	E	R	R	A			
G	L	E	A	N		P	O	D		A	B	O	D	E		
E	A	R	L		P	I	P		B	I	A	S	E	D		
A	D	O		B	U	N	C	H	E	D		C	A	D		
R	E	D	C	A	P		O	U	T		D	A	L	I		
S	N	E	A	K		D	A	M		T	E	R	S	E		
					T	E	N	E	T		N	E	V			
E	G	G	E	D	O	N		M	E	D	I	A	T	E		
B	O	O	R		T	I	A	R	A		A	P	I	N		
B	A	B	E		E	A	G	E	R		T	E	N	D		
S	L	I	D		S	L	E	D	S		E	X	E	S		

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7/23/11

- 3 Sick ___; laid up
- 4 Adjusting a radio knob
- 5 Train depot
- 6 Give a speech
- 7 ___ out; distribute
- 8 Collie or poodle
- 9 Tara Lipinski or Michelle Kwan
- 10 Ways out
- 11 Hertz rival
- 12 Maris or Mudd
- 13 Stockholm resident
- 21 ___ up; misbehaved
- 23 Small whirlpool
- 25 Buffalo
- 26 White cheese with tiny holes
- 27 Kiln
- 28 ___ and rave; talk wildly
- 29 Wide
- 32 Carrying a gun
- 34 Mountain range in Europe
- 35 Certain

DOWN

- 1 Pack in
- 2 In this place

- 36 Trampled
- 38 Didn't care for
- 40 Landing places
- 43 Goatee's place
- 45 In a grumpy way
- 48 Have a feast
- 50 Oscar-winning actor Don ___
- 51 Book of maps
- 52 Segment
- 53 Jet or glider
- 54 Hot ___ sundae
- 56 Wedding band
- 57 Rich soil
- 58 Suffer defeat
- 59 Bridge
- 62 Staff; stick

Today In History

Today is Friday, July 22, the 203rd day of 2011. There are 162 days left in the year. Highlights in history on this date:

1298 - William Wallace, who led Scottish resistance against English rule, uses extra-long spears against mounted soldiers at the Battle of Falkirk. The new fighting tactic is depicted in the 1995 movie "Braveheart."

2006 - A magnitude-5.1 earthquake hits a mountainous area in southwestern China, killing at least 19 people and injuring 60 as it topples homes and sets off landslides.

2007 - Turkey's Islamic-rooted ruling party wins parliamentary elections, taking at least 331 of 550 seats despite warnings from the secular opposition that the government is a threat to secular traditions.

2008 - European Union foreign ministers agree to toughen sanctions against Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe to pressure him

to share power with the opposition.

2009 — President Barack Obama says he pressed Iraq's prime minister to make room in his government and security forces for all ethnic and religious groups to prevent a resurgence of the violence and turmoil that took the country to the verge of civil war.

2010 — American officials brush aside North Korea's warning that new U.S. financial sanctions against the communist regime and the staging of military maneuvers off the Korean coast this weekend raises the risk of war.

Today's Birthdays:

Gregor Johann Mendel, Austrian botanist (1822-1882); Edward Hopper, U.S. painter (1882-1967); Alexander Calder, U.S. sculptor (1898-1976); Licia Albanese, Italian-born soprano (1913--);

George Clinton, U.S. singer (1941--); Alex Trebek, Canadian game show host of 'Jeopardy' (1940--); Danny Glover, U.S. actor (1947--);



Today is David Spade's birthday

Willem Dafoe, U.S. actor (1955--); David Spade, U.S. actor/comedian (1964--); Rhys Ifans, Welsh actor (1967--); Rufus Wainwright, U.S.-Canadian rock singer (1973--).

Thought For Today:

When fate hands us a lemon, let's try to make lemonade. — Dale Carnegie, American author (1888-1955). □

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Taylor swift forgoes holding her peace, or her fans'

Jon Pareles

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NEWARK, N.J. – One big set piece for Taylor Swift's new touring arena show acts out the title song of her 2010 album, "Speak Now." On Wednesday night at the Prudential Center here, where her four-night run concludes Sunday, it was a full-scale wedding scene, with a bride whose gown was, per the lyrics, "shaped like a pastry."

That wasn't Swift.

She was the girl "rudely barging in on a white-veil occasion," urging the groom to run away with her instead. As she and her backup singers shared girl-group gestures and strutted from upstage to center stage, down an

world."

Many fans brought home-made signs with flashing lights, making them more technologically sophisticated than, say, Bruce Springsteen fans.

Mainstream pop could do worse than Swift, who came out of Nashville but owes less to country music with each album. Her songs are taut, tuneful narratives that present her as a good-hearted young woman who carefully lets down her guard until she's wronged; then, as she sang in one punk-pop chorus, "There is nothing I do better than revenge."

On "Speak Now" (Big Machine), she wrote all the



Taylor Swift performs at Prudential Center in Newark, N.J., July 20, 2011. The performance was the first show of four sold-out nights in Newark, and part of Taylor's Speak Now world tour scheduled until November.

(Josh Haner/The New York Times)



Fans cheer as Taylor Swift performs at Prudential Center in Newark, N.J., July 20, 2011.

(Josh Haner/The New York Times)

antebellum-styled staircase with banisters supported by large letter S's, the groom pulled himself away from the ceremony and started bopping along with Swift. It was a happy ending for everyone except her rival.

The song went off, as did every number, with clockwork professionalism and thousands of girls' voices singing along and screaming between the lines. Swift, 21, is their superstar.

Each of her three albums has sold more than 3 million copies, and she cannily cued huge waves of squeals by declaring them "my favorite sound in the

songs without collaborators and moved her storylines out of high school.

Her new battlegrounds for self-esteem include pop stardom and romances with adults.

When one of those adults, "Dear John" – whose last name may be Mayer – leaves her crying, she calls him "sick" and lashes out: "Don't you think 19's too young to be played by your dark twisted games?" For that song, she sat alone, with her band discreetly playing along in the shadows, and in the video close-up her face telegraphed every line: wounded, then

narrow-eyed and furious, then self-satisfied after a burst of pyrotechnics: "The girl in the dress wrote you a song," she sang with a defiant look.

Swift is always ready for her close-up, and she knew to play as directly to the cameras as to the crowd.

Most pop arena concerts are video-ready spectacles now, and Swift was in control of every nuance and every bit of between-song patter, dutifully inserting "Newark, N.J." into her prepared thank-yous. (She also paid homage to the state with a mini-medley: the choruses from Spring-

steen's "Dancing in the Dark" and Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a Prayer.")

Through the set, as she ran through glamorous costume changes, hit her marks and telegraphed lyrics with finger-pointing gestures, her composure never faltered. Between songs she would sometimes pause, let her eyes sweep smugly across the packed arena, then soften the pride with an equally deliberate smile. She declared herself – and her fans – "hopeless romantics," but her cool, systematic ambition was just as clearly on display. That didn't stop the squeals. □



Taylor Swift performs at Prudential Center in Newark, N.J., July 20, 2011.

(Josh Haner/The New York Times)



Lindsay Lohan looks on in court during a case review conference in Los Angeles, Thursday, July 21, 2011. A judge says Lohan needs to speed up her community service to make sure she meets a deadline to complete 480 hours within a year. Lohan appeared in court to update Superior Court Judge Stephanie Sautner on the progress of her probation in drunken driving and misdemeanor theft cases.

(AP Photo/Kevork Djansezian)

Judge:

Lohan needs to speed up community service

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) —

A judge warned Lindsay Lohan Thursday that she must spend more time doing community service and enroll in psychological counseling or risk running into problems with her probation. In a separate development, Lohan was sued for assault and battery in Riverside County by a former worker at the Betty Ford Center who had a dispute with the actress in December. In Los Angeles, Superior Court Judge Stephanie Sautner reminded the actress during a status hearing in her criminal cases that she had to complete 480 hours of community service by next April, and that she would not grant any extensions, even if Lohan is working on a film.

"She's not going to get five

minutes more than one year" to complete the service at a shelter for women and the county morgue, Sautner said. The judge opened the hearing by telling Lohan that probation officials had submitted a report stating she had violated the terms of her release. "Don't look shocked Ms. Lohan because it isn't true," Sautner said, explaining the probation officer was relying on incorrect information. The judge did chide the actress for not providing officials with a phone number where she could be reached for monitoring. It was Lohan's first appearance in court since completing 35 days of house arrest.

Her attorney, Shawn Holley, noted the actress was prohibited from doing community service during that time. □

The evolution of Turtle on HBO's 'Entourage'

ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jerry Ferrara's character on "Entourage," known as Turtle, was first introduced as a pot-smoking slacker living with

10:30 p.m. ET/PT on HBO) he's an entrepreneur with dreams of his own success who has Mark Cuban on speed dial. In real life, Ferrara, now 31, has gone through his own transfor-

"Times are a little bit different now. (In the past) if you were a television actor you were a television actor and if you were a movie actor then that's it," he said. "Now people are



Cast members Jeremy Piven, left, Kevin Connolly, Adrian Grenier, Kevin Dillon and Jerry Ferrara attend the final season premiere of "Entourage" at the Beacon Theatre on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 in New York.

(AP Photo/Evan Agostini)

his movie star friend, working as his chauffeur, and enjoying the perks of being so close to fame.

In the eighth and final season (premiering Sunday at

mation over the course of the show. He's lost roughly 50 pounds (25 kilograms) and is looking forward to the challenge of finding work beyond "Entourage."

segueing from TV to movies rather easily and you're seeing a lot of people go from movies to television so I just think there are no rules anymore." □

'Capt.' taking command, barely

P. DERGARABEDIAN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "The First Avenger" takes on the last "Potter" this weekend, with the Marvel superhero likely to follow in the formidable footsteps of recent predecessors and open on top at the nation's box office. But Harry's not giving up without a fight. Paramount's "Captain America: The First Avenger" should command around \$60 million to break the record-smashing spell that "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2" cast on last weekend's box office. Fellow superheroes "Thor," "X-Men," "Green Lantern"

and "Green Hornet" all debuted at No. 1 this year. The seventh and final installment of Warner Bros.' hugely successful "Harry Potter" series still has plenty of magic, though, and even with a drop-off in the 65-70 percent range, "HP7" could easily make \$55 million to \$60 million over the weekend. This would bring its domestic total to nearly \$300 million by Sunday night. If four R-rated summer comedies are good — think "Bridesmaids," "Hangover II," "Bad Teacher" and "Horrible Bosses" — then five are better, with Sony's debuting "Friends With Benefits" becoming the fifth

edgy adult comedy to hit theaters this season. Expect the date crowd to hook up with this platonic-meets-erotic tale for a third-place finish of around \$20 million. Global juggernaut "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" from Paramount will try to show a certain R-rated comedy who's boss this weekend. With worldwide totals approaching \$800 million, this Optimus Opus is primed for a fourth weekend gross of just over \$10 million. The film became the first movie released in 2011 to cross the \$300 million mark and should be north of \$320 million by the end of the weekend. □

Bonuses for billionaires



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

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The first few times I heard House Republicans talk about our budget mess, I worried that they had plunged off the deep end. But as I kept on listening, a buzzer went off in my mind, and I came to understand how much sense the Tea Party caucus makes.

Why would we impose "job-crushing taxes" on wealthy Americans just to pay for luxuries like federal prisons? Why end the "carried interest" tax loophole for financiers, just to pay for unemployment benefits — especially when those same selfless tycoons are buying yachts and thus creating jobs for all the rest of us?

Hmmm. The truth is that House Republicans don't actually go far enough. They should follow the logic of their more visionary members with steps like these:

BONUSES FOR BILLIONAIRES

Republicans won't extend unemployment benefits, even in the worst downturn in 70 years, because that makes people lazy about finding jobs. They're right: We should be creating incentives for Americans to rise up the food chain by sending hefty checks to every new billionaire. This could be paid for with a tax surcharge on regular working folks. It's the least we can do. Likewise, the government should take sterner measures against the persistent jobless. Don't just let their unemployment benefits expire. Take their homes! Oh, never mind! Silly me! The banks are already doing that.

LET JOBS TRICKLE DOWN

Leftist pundits say that House Republicans don't have a jobs plan. That's unfair! Granted, the Republican-sponsored Cut, Cap and Balance Act would eliminate 700,000 jobs in just its first year, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, but those analysts are no doubt liberals. America's richest 400 people own more wealth than the bottom 150 million Americans, and the affluent would feel renewed confidence if the Republican plan passed. We'd see a hiring bonanza. Each of those wealthy people might hire an extra pool attendant. That's 400 jobs right there!

Cut, Cap and Balance would go even further than the Ryan budget plan in starving the beast of government. Sure, that'll mean cuts in Social Security, Medicare and other programs, but so what? Who

needs food safety? How do we know we really need air traffic control unless we try a day without it?

ROOT OUT SOCIALISM

Republicans have been working to end Medicare as we know it but need to examine other reckless entitlements, such as our socialized education system, in which public schools fritter resources on classes like economics and foreign languages. As a former Texas governor, Miriam "Ma" Ferguson, is said to have declared when she opposed the teaching of foreign languages: "If English was good enough for Jesus Christ, it's good enough for us." For that matter, who needs socialized police and fire services? We could slash job-crushing taxes at the local level and simply let the free market take over: "9-1-1, may I help you?" "Yes, help! My house is burning down!" "Very good, sir. I can offer you one fire engine for \$5,995, or two for just \$10,000." "Help! My family's inside. Send three fire engines! Just hurry!" "Yes, sir. Let me just run your credit card first. And if you require the fire trucks immediately, there's a 50 percent 'rush' surcharge."

CHILL OUT ABOUT THE DEBT CEILING

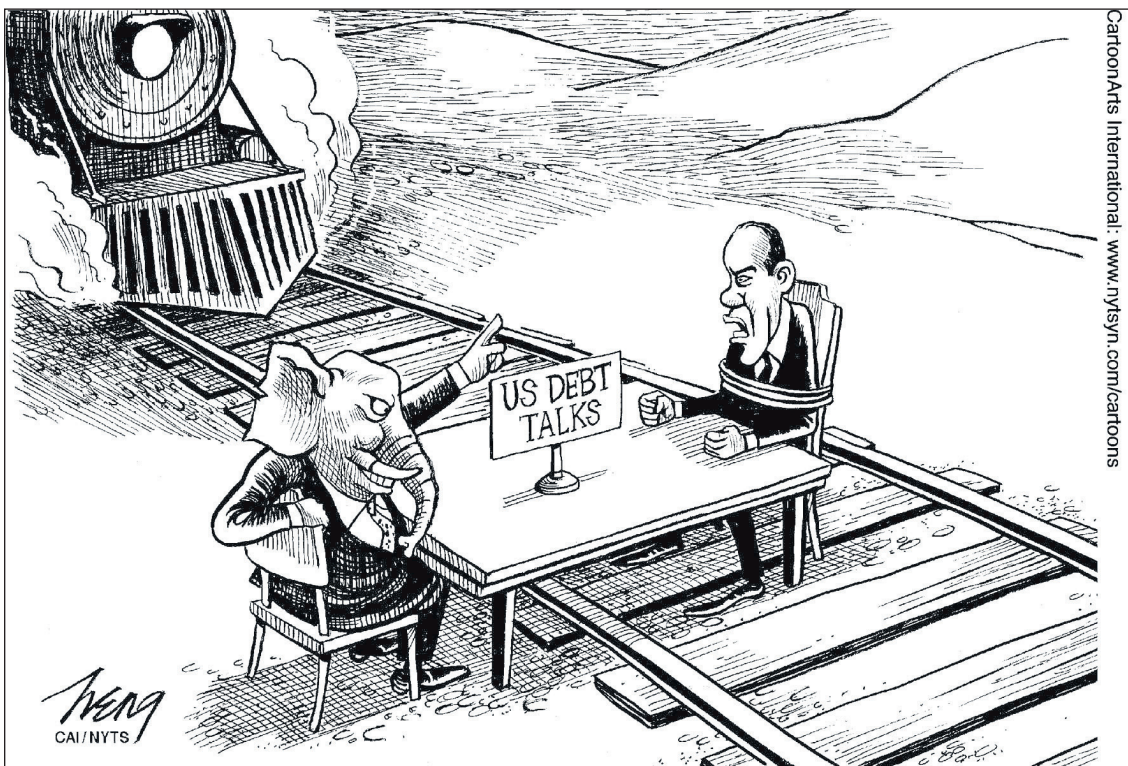
House Republicans like Michele Bachmann are right: If the debt ceiling isn't raised, some solution will turn up. As Rep. Austin Scott, R-Ga., observes: "In the end, the sun is going to come up tomorrow." We got through the Great Depression, didn't we? It looked pretty hopeless in 1929, but in just a dozen years World War II bailed us out with an economic stimulus. Something like that'll come along for us, too. Ya gotta have faith.

CONSIDER ASSET SALES

While Democrats are harumphing about "default," Republicans have sagely noted that there are alternatives in front of our noses. For example, why raise taxes on hard-pressed managers of hedge funds when the government can sell assets? Fort Knox alone has 4,600 tons of gold, which I figure is worth around \$235 billion. That's enough to pay our military budget for four months! And selling Yosemite, Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon would buy us time as well.

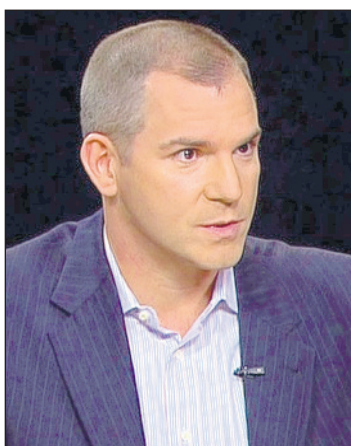
RENT OUT CONGRESS

If the debt ceiling isn't raised, we could also auction members of Congress for day jobs: Are you a financier who wants someone to flip burgers (steaks?) at your child's birthday party? Why, here's Eric Cantor! Many members of Congress already work on behalf of tycoons, and this way the revenue would flow to the Treasury. Finally, if we risk default, let's rent out the Capitol for weddings to raise money for the public good. Wouldn't it be nice to see something positive emerge from the House? □



Cartoonists International: www.nytimes.com/cartoons

2 dads, 2 daughters, 1 big day



FRANK BRUNI

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NEW YORK — Even in a city as diverse as New York and a neighborhood as progressive as the West Village, a little kid knows that having two dads is different. Eight-year-old Maeve certainly did.

She knew, too, that the world didn't see her family exactly the way it saw others. Her dads, Jonathan Mintz and John Feinblatt, could tell.

"She understood that there was something, for lack of a better word, second-class about her family," Mintz said. And as she wrestled with that, her frustration was distilled in a question that she and then her sister, Georgia, 6, began to ask more and more often.

^Why aren't you two married, like our friends' parents?

@For a long time Mintz and Feinblatt avoided an answer because, while they didn't want to lie, they also didn't want to focus their daughters' attention on the blunt truth: that New York, like most states, forbade it. So they perfected stalling tactics, asking Maeve and Georgia if they thought a wedding would be fun and whether they envisioned being flower girls and on and on. Anything to keep the conversation happy and the girls from feeling left out.

On Sunday, their family will be at center stage. The first same-sex weddings will take place in New York, and Mintz and Fein-

blatt are saying their vows at Gracie Mansion, where Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a longtime friend, will officiate.

And while the two men are thrilled for themselves, it's on behalf of their daughters, who will indeed carry bouquets and stand with them and the mayor, that they're positively ecstatic. The men care deeply that the girls feel fully integrated into society and see it as just. Sunday's ceremony goes a long way toward that.

Outside New York there's less cause for celebration: Twenty-nine states with constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage and plenty of people who interpret a formal validation of same-sex relationships as an assault on "family values."

So I invite you to look at the values of the Mintz-Feinblatt family. They do, too. That's why they let me drop in on them twice this week and will have reporters at their wedding. Feinblatt, 60, who is Bloomberg's chief policy adviser, and Mintz, 47, the city's commissioner of consumer affairs, have lived together for more than 13 years, the last eight in a West Village townhouse.

To go that distance, adjustments were necessary. Feinblatt, the less orderly one, learned to accept that no matter where he dropped his suitcase, it would "be moved to a 'better' place," he said. "A much better place," Mintz added.

They put enormous thought into having children. They had to. They found a surrogate willing to work with them twice; Maeve and Georgia have that extra connection. And to avoid any sense that either girl belonged more to one father, or vice versa, the couple asked a doctor to make sure that each of them sired a child but not to tell them whose was biologically whose, unless medically necessary.

They have suspicions, but don't try for anything firmer.

Both girls are Feinblatts. Mintz said he "horse-traded" his surname in return for getting "Daddy." Feinblatt took "Dad." Adoring relatives surround the girls. An aunt and uncle on Feinblatt's side live in an apartment in their townhouse. Feinblatt's stepmother visits so regularly from Baltimore that she got an apartment across the street.

As for their grandparents, aunts, uncles and seven cousins on Mintz's side, all of them, along with the two girls and their dads, gather at a resort in Baja California for a week every February. The girls chatter about it all year long.

They have three dogs, one a recent surprise birthday gift for Georgia. Maeve says she predicted it. She mischievously maintains she sees portents in the sky.

"We're trying to dissuade her," Mintz said. "We're concerned there's no scholarship in psychic cloud reading."

Since 2004, Massachusetts has allowed same-sex marriages, but Mintz and Feinblatt are committed New Yorkers, and their daughters weren't fixated on weddings at first.

Then the questioning increased. Sidestepping it finally became impossible. In late May, the couple took Maeve to hear a speech Bloomberg gave in support of same-sex marriage. She cried, they said, as she was hit full force with her family's lesser place, at least then. The girls have invited 15 friends to Sunday's reception and picked the frosting colors for the different flavored cupcakes: purple for chocolate, yellow for banana, pink for red velvet. On Tuesday, just after day camp, they accompanied their dads to the caterer's for a final tasting. They fidgeted through the portobello mushroom sliders and tuna ceviche, awaiting dessert.

When it arrived, they pounced, and their dads, beaming, didn't hold them back. This wasn't a moment for limits. □

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